

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. VII.—NEW SERIES, No. 59.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1847.

[PRICE 6d.]

CONTENTS.

ECCLIASTICAL:—	The Advantages of being an Irish Landlord.....	53
The Breaking of the Clouds 45	The Supply of Food.....	53
British Anti-state-church Association.—Soirée at Manchester.....	Foreign and Colonial News ..	54
The Mirror of Parliament ..	Ireland.....	54
Postscript.....	Famine in Ireland and Scotland.—Progress of Voluntary Relief.....	55
POLITICAL ARTICLES:—	Correspondence.....	55
Summary.....	Family Companion.....	56
"Shadows Awaunt!".....	Births, Deaths, &c.....	57
Nadir Shah for Prime Minister.....	Trade and Commerce.....	57
	Advertisements.....	58

ECCLIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

THE BREAKING OF THE CLOUDS.

THE early history of all important public movements is very similar. Usually they are born in obscurity, and, Hercules-like, are called in the period of their cradlehood to strangle the twin serpents of prejudice and contempt. Their first years are spent in exercises which, but for the healthful influence they exert upon themselves, would seem to be so much energy thrown away. They have to develop their inherent moral vitality, before they can make their power seen and felt—to acquire hardihood by exposure—to get the wisdom of experience out of repeated disappointments and frequent mistakes. Many are the well-meant schemes which perish under this severity of discipline—not a few which totter on to a miserably decrepit youth, as if to awaken pity, rather than to attract support. Modern agitations, too, have their crises, analogous to those which mark the growth of the human frame—crises full of peril, but which a good constitution may presume upon surmounting. Teething, measles, chicken-pox, and scarlatina, are aptly typical of the variety and certainty of the evils with which every great movement must sooner or later struggle. And when, having at length triumphed over all, they show themselves to the world in the full proportions and unmistakable strength of manhood, none but parental affections can realize the fact, that they were once feeble, dependent, and, at some seasons, all but dead.

The British Anti-state-church Association offers no exception to the rule. They who cared to look upon it when its first cry awoke attention, and who had noted the special circumstances of its birth, pronounced it a vigorous and promising babe. It has grown up just as other babes of sound health, have done. It has had its critical periods—it has elicited many anxieties, and has excited occasional fears. Extraneous influences have tried it—and it has gone through the ordinary sufferings of childhood. It will reach during the present year one of its constitutional climacterics—a Triennial Conference—and, we are happy to aver, it gives assurance of living to fulfil the fond wishes of its early friends. We have no intention of retracing its history—but we believe, we may render it a timely service, by referring our readers to some of those dawning symptoms of adolescence which mark it as about to enter upon a higher stage of efficiency, and a wider sphere of usefulness.

It is well-nigh superfluous to remark now, that the Association has quietly lived down some of the more plausible calumnies with which it was originally assailed. There are men, it is true, who, having pronounced sentence before hearing evidence, have gone on repeating it, until they have come to believe in its justice—men who, when assured that facts are against them, answer with the Frenchman, "So much de vorse for de facts, den"—who will neither see nor hear, lest eyes and ears should convict the tongue of folly—and who, by a sort of moral imperfection in their habits, go about exclaiming—"I will be mistaken, and nobody shall enlighten me." These, of course, we give up as incurable. They constitute the awkward squad of every social movement. For their own sakes, one could wish to train them to some show of propriety, but they are so imbedded in stiff prejudices, that the virtue which cannot be denied to them, is in a similar predicament to that which Dr. Johnson supposes possible with truth and gold—"both may be so buried in obscurity as not to pay the cost of their extraction." But, on the other hand, observing and reflecting individuals, in considerable numbers, who have watched the proceedings of the Association throughout, have long since dismissed unworthy suspicions from their minds. The thing is not the bubble they once took it to be—

nor a mere aerolite thrown off by the volcanic eruption of restless and enthusiastic spirits. It is admitted to have gone about its work with reasonable calmness, energy, forethought, and perseverance—and, whatever may ultimately become of its efforts, it is not concealed that thus far it has acted with a dignity which silences hasty imputations.

This, however, is the least of its success. Happily, and as might almost have been anticipated, it lays hold, wherever it gains or forces an introduction, upon the young mind of Dissent. They who from five to ten years hence will give its character to society, impart to it its bias, and direct its aspirations after freedom, are ranging themselves, with unequivocal good-will and determination, around the banner which the Association uplifts. Their adhesion to it is a pledge of its future activity. Exercised, for the most part, in habits of persevering agitation, by the movement for commercial freedom which Providence so lately crowned with success, and abhorring nothing so much as a life of listless vacancy, they seize upon the first fair opportunity presented to them, to transfer to yet nobler objects the service they erewhile rendered to the cause of free-trade. Nowhere, when made with propriety, has this valuable class turned a deaf ear to kindly appeals. In no instance have they disappointed reasonable anticipations. The same quarry which furnishes the instrumentality for communicating gratuitous instruction to the rising poor, and for carrying forward all plans of modern philanthropy, contributes its quota of strength to the Anti-state-church movement. Hereon, indeed, we base our hopes. The generation just entered, or entering, upon manhood, is adopting the question as specially its own—and is infusing into existing mechanism all the vigour which is characteristic of young blood.

There is another consideration from which we glean additional confidence. No man of common observation can have rushed upon the conclusion, that an organisation, however important its professed object, or however well adapted its proposed means, would draw to itself, on the instant, the whole of the earnestness and decision which lay scattered over the lengths and breadths of Dissenting society. It was hardly to be expected, in the nature of things, that there would be an immediate gravitation of all the separate particles of right-heartedness to this common centre. Time was necessary, to prove that the movement was not a mere flash in the pan—that it was not the breaking forth of individual vanity, or of party spirit, which would create a momentary light, and as quickly die away in darkness. And time has done something to prove thus much. Upon the very verge of contact with us, and tending by a law of their principles and disposition towards us, there are hundreds of good men and true, who cannot much longer stand aloof from the enterprise. Gradually they are gaining faith in its integrity—their doubts one by one are disappearing—convictions are fastening upon their consciences—and it may be confidently presumed, that no long period will elapse before they assume, with cheerful determination, that position which will set free all their energies and zeal.

The subject, however, is one which cannot be satisfactorily disposed of in a single article. Next week we may resume the thread of our remarks.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

SOIRÉE AT MANCHESTER.

A soirée to promote the objects of this Association was held on Thursday evening, in the Corn Exchange, when, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, snow having been falling for the previous thirty hours, there was a large and respectable attendance. Tea and coffee were in the first place taken by the company, and the number of ladies and gentlemen who sat down to the well-furnished tables was about 700. Among the ministers and gentlemen present were—the Rev. Dr. Price (editor of the *Eclectic Review*), Mr. Edward Miall (editor of the *Nonconformist*), Rev. W. Patterson, Rev. Dr. Massie, Rev. Dr. Howarth, Rev. T. G. Lee, Rev. R. Jones, Rev. T. Hughes, Rev. A. E. Pearce, &c.; George Hadfield, Esq., William Burd, jun. Esq., J. Rylands, Esq., John Brooks, Esq., Samuel Giles, Esq., P. Thompson, Esq., A. Prentice, Esq., William Morris, Esq., W. A. Cunningham, Esq., Josiah Barker, Esq., Joseph Spencer, Esq., J. A.

Cheetham, Esq., William Shuttleworth, Esq., John Kirkham, Esq., and other influential gentlemen. Grace was said by the Rev. Mr. Hoyle, and thanks were offered up by the Rev. Mr. Smith. The tea apparatus was removed at seven o'clock, and in a few minutes afterwards the business of the evening commenced. James Watts, Esq., of the firm of S. and J. Watts and Co., was unanimously, and amidst applause, called upon to preside. We find the meeting reported in the *Manchester Times* and *Examiner*, to which papers we are indebted for the following account of the proceedings. In order that we may extract as much as possible of the report of this interesting and important meeting, our readers must submit to the inconvenience of very small type.

The CHAIRMAN, after one or two remarks, called upon

The Rev. W. PATTERSON, in moving the first resolution, (which, with the others, will be found in our advertising columns,) said—

He was willing to take any part, whether in the front or rear of the great army of moral progress. He did not come there to take part in politics, but he stood there claiming to do whatever he could for the good of his country; nor could he consent to the doctrine of those who held that in becoming a minister of the gospel he gave up his civil rights. He came there to draw apart religion and politics, and leave religion to do its work unfettered by politics. As a servant of Christ he stood forward to repel every invader of his territory, and he hoped to see the time when Christ would be acknowledged as the head of the church; when that which was Caesar's would be rendered to Caesar, and that which was God's should be rendered to God; when the church should be placed on its right basis, and no prince or potentate of this world would be acknowledged. Some had said they wanted to pull down the church. He said, "No." And if they had the wish to pull it down they knew they could not; and they believed, further, that it was too strong to need being propped up by parchments and State assistance (great applause). He held man to be responsible to God, and the revelation given to him, for his belief; and, if so, he held that no prince or parliament ought to come between them. If such powers or persons could stand in his place at the day of judgment, then and then only he could acknowledge their authority. He held that there was no parallel between our government and that of the Jews. Theirs was a theocracy,—Jehovah being their sole law-giver. All they wished was simply to sever the bonds that united the Church to the State, and that the Christian church might free itself from the bonds cast around it by Constantine. The reverend gentleman ridiculed the present law of toleration. He had as much right to tolerate the Church of England as that Church had to say it tolerated his church. The Queen was said to be the head of that Church; but she was also head of the Catholic Church in Canada; of the Presbyterian Church in another part of the empire; of the Wesleyans in another; and even of Paganism: so that it was a motley church indeed, of which the Queen was the head. He contended that they had no right to support or to pull down any of those churches. All that they had to do was, to see that they were not compelled to support those churches (applause)—to see that no man was called upon to subscribe a single farthing to the religion of which his conscience did not approve. Let every church stand or fall on its own merits, and do its own work. In conclusion he would say, that the Churches new connected with the State would one day thank them for endeavouring to break their bonds and to set them free (loud cheers).

GEORGE HADFIELD, Esq., rose, amidst great cheering, to second the motion—

He thought that the men who took the initiative in endeavouring to enlighten the public mind on a great question were entitled to more honour and respect than those who came in merely to join in the shout of victory (hear, hear, and cheers). It was the period of danger, of difficulty, and of toil, that tested the principles and character of a man. They had not many mighty, or rich, or noble to support this cause, nor had our great Master in his day. They were surrounded by the common people, who heard Christ gladly (cheers)—and they were seeking to place the crown upon His head, and to have His kingdom established by His own divine power (cheers). He (the speaker) was an old campaigner in this cause (cheers); he had, at the parish table of this great community, protested against the injustice of levying a man's goods to provide bread and wine for the sacrament: he had polled the people of Manchester, and defeated the proposed church-rate by a majority of one (cheers). He was glad that the question, then not properly understood, was getting more understood; and, though he now sometimes doubted whether he should live to see the change which in his younger days he felt confident he should see, he could not shut his eyes to the fact that great events were not now the work of ages and centuries and generations, but of years and months and days. The corn-laws had been repealed, and yet he was one who, a few years ago, with some thirty or forty others, met Dr. Bowring to consider what should be done to emancipate the commerce of the country; on that occasion he was privileged to speak, and subscribed his 5s. to begin the work (laughter and cheers). They did not want to burn the churches or the Prayer-book, nor to imprison the clergy. If any one were to touch a hair of their heads they would be amongst the foremost of their defenders (cheers). They did not, as was sometimes said, want to upset the Established Church that they might establish themselves ["No, no"]. He hoped he should be excused if he touched upon politics; but it must be borne in mind, that politics were a species of ethics—ethical knowledge was the basis of his politics; and he contended that politics were nothing more than the good of the country. Nothing could make a state weaker than partiality to one sect. One main element of the vital strength of a government was to engage the hearts of all men in its support; and how could a government have the support of all when they showed partiality to a section (hear, hear)? The members of the Episcopal Church were not the majority of the people of these islands. Even in England and Wales he would poll them out. He asserted that the Nonconformists were the majority (cheers). But take in Scotland, and they (the Nonconformists) outnumbered the Episcopalians prodigiously. Then what right had the latter to tax the former in support of the Episcopal Church. It was this question which had torn up this country by the roots. Ever since he was born, the cry of "The Church is in danger" had resounded through the land. As a good Quaker once said, "I would not belong to thy Church, for it is always in danger" (laughter). Lord John Russell, and the Whigs generally, had tried to make friends of the Church; but they had never succeeded, and they never would succeed (cheers). They had sacrificed their best and truest friends, the Nonconformists, and had insulted them into the bargain; and he could safely say that they had got more from their enemies, the Tories, than from the Whigs (cheers). If his voice could reach so far, he wished to warn Lord John Russell that he had fallen once by the sacrifice of his friends, and that, if

he took not care, he would fall again [cheers]. Important, however, as the political view of this case was, that sank into insignificance by the side of the religious aspect. The fact of our Government supporting such a monstrous medley of churches and creeds was enough to drive all faith in religious truth out of the world. But it seemed, from what had been said in that room only a few nights ago, that, as though there were not already more than enough of establishments,—a second church was about to be established in Ireland [hear, hear]—and that the people of this country were to be taxed for the support of it. The man who dared to propose such a thing in this country, whether prime minister, or whoever he might be, might date his doom from that hour [loud applause].

The motion was then put, and carried unanimously. The Rev. D. RHYA STEPHEN, in moving the next resolution, said—

The Executive Committee of the Association had been very active; and he believed they had done nothing which an honest and Christian man need be ashamed of. Books had been published, and lectures had been delivered; but the buyers of the one and the listeners to the other had pronounced both to be good. They would not scold and oppose, and therefore he had nothing to defend. He warned all who were half-hearted in this great and good cause not to pledge themselves to support this Society; for measures were about to be adopted that would test the sincerity of every man. They intended to prosecute their object most strenuously; and, if they carried it not before they died, they would leave it to their children to accomplish. He would rather leave to his children the name of a man who took up a principle from conviction of its truth, and adhered to it in spite of all obloquy and difficulty, than leave them any conceivable sum of money, and the name of half-hearted trucklers to expediency, who had no principle themselves, and cared not for it in others [much cheering].

Mr. Stephen said it was in contemplation to have lectures delivered in furtherance of the views of the Association.

The Rev. STEPHEN HOOPER seconded the resolution, which was then carried unanimously.

THOMAS PRICE, D.D., editor of the *Eclectic Review*, came forward amidst loud applause, and acknowledged, on the part of the Executive Committee, the resolution which had been adopted—

He then proceeded to give a history of the construction and machinery of the British Anti-state-church Society, premising that the Society had refrained from coming into Manchester until the noble struggle in which the town had been engaged for the achievement of free-trade, had been triumphantly and happily terminated, and stating his belief that here the Association would find its stronghold. The movement for the formation of this Society originated in the midland counties, and memorials were sent to different bodies in London, which had been long constituted, inviting them to co-operate; but the memorials were got rid of on technical objections, and in a way that was unworthy of those bodies. The parties in the midland counties then held a meeting at Leicester, and it was determined that a convention should be held in London. That convention was held in April, 1844. It was attended by 700 gentlemen, not as individuals, but as representatives of congregations and public meetings—of tens of thousands of people in all parts of the United Kingdom. They sat for three days, and their proceedings were characterized by unbroken harmony. They organized the Association, not in any sectarian or exclusive spirit, but for the simple and sole object of effecting the separation of the religious body from the secular body. The organization was not opposed to one ecclesiastical form more than another; it was not antagonistic to Episcopacy any more than it was antagonistic to Presbyterianism or Congregationalism. It knew nothing of any sect or denomination; but it embraced all who were one with it in antagonism to State-churchism. There belonged to it Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, and Methodists—all the infinite variety of sects which unhappily divided the Christian community. There belonged to it also some who bore no distinctive religious name, but who deemed a State Church to be unfriendly to religion, or injurious to the civil interests of a nation. Such was the constitution of the Society. Its machinery might be briefly described. Two bodies were organized: the one, consisting of fifty persons residing in various parts of the empire, entitled the Executive Committee; the other, a general council of five hundred. This arrangement was made with a double view. The Executive Committee was to secure efficiency and continuity of operation; the general council, scattered in various localities, throughout the whole kingdom, were regarded as central points for the spread of information and the furtherance of the contemplated object. And so solicitous were the framers of the society to guard against all cliques and local influence, and even that silent and imperceptible growth of power which attends human organizations, as well as to secure the continued vigour and healthfulness of young life, that it was determined that the society should every three years resolve itself into its original elements. At the expiration of the three years, another convention was to be held, the society reconstructed, officers and committees appointed, and such instructions given as might be advisable in the then circumstances of the empire. It was felt that there was some hazard in this; but it was thought the best mode for periodically infusing fresh life and vigour into the society. One part of the theory had not worked well. He frankly and unhesitatingly confessed that to a great extent the Council of 500 had proved an ineffective and unworkable body, owing to the fact that the parties put upon it were to a great extent selected in ignorance of their views and intentions. He said this in order that any gentleman going up to London, at the next triennial convention, which would be held in the ensuing spring, might be prepared with the names of men in their locality who could be depended upon for furthering the cause in hand. The speaker next proceeded to point out, that although a retrospective view was not altogether without bright points, the Nonconformist body had hitherto confined themselves too much to what was called practical grievances. Now, however, it was felt that something was due to themselves, to their principles, and to their church—that, instead of the practical grievance system, they should adopt an aggressive system, not against the Episcopal church as such, but against the Church of England as a State creation—a thing which the law had called into being, and which the law might therefore extinguish [great cheering]. It was felt that an aggressive movement was called for against this as the most enormous and crying evil of the day—an evil, not simply in reference to religion, but also in relation to social life and the general interest of the commonwealth. They determined, therefore, to give the society a title which could easily be understood, and which should designate its one object. From the first they anticipated hard work and much obloquy. They knew, from the history of past movements, what the early stages of all were; and they did not anticipate that in a movement antagonistic to great interests, combining together large and influential classes—classes hitherto ruling to a great extent the destinies of our country, and still imprinting their character upon its laws—they did not imagine that such a movement was to be carried through its early, least popular, and least attractive stages, without drawing upon them much obloquy. They were prepared to meet with open and avowed opponents. They were aware that, in the nature of things, there must be hundreds and thousands of men who were as honestly attached to the State-church as they (the Dissenters) were opposed to it; who fully believed that it had the sanction of God's holy book, and was calculated to work great good. They knew nothing of that party which refused to give to the opposition of men, in all other respects honourable, the same credit for sincerity which they claimed [great cheering]; and let those who would misrepresent the proceedings of the Association bear witness to the fact, that they gave, in thousands of instances, so far as integrity and earnestness were concerned, the same credit which they themselves claimed [applause]. They would endeavour to avoid misrepresenting others; and all they asked was, that others should be equally careful to avoid misrepresenting them. They had been misrepresented, but it was from ignorance of their principles. They were charged with a restlessness of spirit which sought to pull down all sacred, and to debase all holy things. They loved religion too much to act thus. If they knew that the members of the Establishment should misunderstand them, they did not wonder; but that some others should have misunderstood them was surprising. Closer contact would, however, he believed, remove those misapprehensions. In many cases they had been removed; prejudices had vanished; and very many, who before had been courteously retreated from them, were now disposed, on a closer being offered, to step into their ranks. There were signs of the times which led him to believe, that it might be said of the Dissenters, "You were summoned to a work, but proved yourselves unworthy of it. That work is taken from your hands, and will be committed to others." There was growing up within

the Established Church a feeling which, like the accumulated water of a mountain torrent, must break a vent for itself. The meeting were aware of what had occurred in Scotland, and the marvel was, that our Baptist Noels and Bickersteths in England should not feel themselves placed under a similar constraint. But there was growing up, without the pale of the Established Church, in the great mass of the people, a feeling, perfectly apart from religious feeling—a feeling that this State-church system was full of wrong to them; there was an enmity to this system growing up on various grounds, and the time must come when that enmity would show itself. He had heard it said, "Here is a class of public functionaries paid really by the State, only in a form different from that in which the State pays civil functionaries. They are paid by an annual revenue, derived mainly from tithes; these tithes constitute a portion of the national revenue, and, by act of Parliament, have been given to the Protestant Church of England. Here are seven, or eight, or nine millions a year appropriated to a service which we deem pernicious to the land, and without which we deem that the civil and religious interests of the country would be promoted. Why, then, spend so large a sum on such a service?" When he remembered that they were in Manchester now, and that this was the first meeting they had held in the town, he confessed that he was cheered. There was something exhilarating in such a spectacle, after other scenes [cheers]. Having returned thanks on behalf of the Executive Committee, he said that the resolution would cause them to commit themselves more earnestly, if possible, to the course in which they were engaged. They should labour, God willing, till the work was brought to such a stage that others might take their posts and carry it on. Whatever personal sacrifices or toil might be incurred, his colleagues would freely bear it, until they were relieved by men whom they would heartily welcome to their ranks [great and prolonged applause].

The Rev. Mr. MORRIS moved the next resolution.

He alluded to the declaration of opinion made in that room, by Lord Lincoln, in favour of the endowment of the Roman Catholic clergy, as an additional inducement for strong exertion at this period, to manifest their hostility to, and determination to abolish, all connexion between the State and religion. They stood at the end of one great contest, the recollection of which ought to animate them; and, in the present struggle, they must bear in mind that they had the sympathy of some of those men who had been engaged in the now successful contest alluded to—nay, if possible, a more intense sympathy than they had manifested in the past contest [cheers].

EDWARD MIAL, Esq., editor of the *Nonconformist*, came forward to second the motion, amidst continuous bursts of the most enthusiastic applause. He said:—

Mr. Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen,—I have been already very considerably relieved from that weight of responsibility which I felt when first I entered this room, and knew that it would be my duty to address myself to a Manchester audience. I cannot conceal from you, nor would I conceal from myself, the gratification which I have felt this night in witnessing the mode, the characteristic mode, in which you have at last put your hands to a cause more important, in my estimation, to the civil and spiritual interests of mankind, than any cause which has been agitated since the first introduction of Christianity to the world [cheers]. I think it augurs well—augurs great and glorious things, that the people of Manchester have thrown themselves—for I take you to be the representatives of the real people—have thrown themselves with energy and spirit, as is their wont, into this question; and I feel assured that nothing as now is wanted on my part to heighten your own sense of the importance of persevering in the course you have marked out for yourselves. I am sure I need not be ashamed to avow before this audience, as I have avowed before the world, that the principal interest which I take in the question now under consideration is an interest based upon religious judgment and feeling. I felt this question pressing upon my conscience years ago, giving me no rest [hear, hear]. So deeply were my own feelings excited by the contemplation of what appeared to be the apathy and insensibility of the religious world upon the question of state churches, that I was powerfully impelled—nor could I, with any regard to my present or future happiness, resist the impulse—to come forth from the position—the ecclesiastical and spiritual position which I held in the church—if only I might be permitted to devote the remainder of my life to diffuse some knowledge among my fellow-men upon this great question [applause]. I am an ardent believer in Christianity. I see in that system a beautiful and glorious representation of the majesty and the beneficence of God [hear, hear]. I feel it to be exquisitely adapted to work out all the high moral purposes for which it has been sent into our ruined world [hear, hear]. I feel perfectly assured, that had it been promulgated in the spirit of apostolic simplicity and zeal, from the days when it was first preached in poverty until the present moment, all nations would now have been rejoicing in its light, and even in temporal respects, the family of mankind might have glorified God for the blessing that had been bestowed upon them [hear, hear]. And I am sure, that if in any respect this truth has failed to work out the results for which it is well adapted, and for which it is intended—I know not that any cause can be assigned more powerful in impeding its proper and legitimate results, than that which has abandoned over this religion,—this pure, this moral, this spiritual, this divine religion, into the hands of secular politicians, to be made the tool by which they are to work out their own purposes [cheers]. Of all desecrations that have ever disgraced human nature—desecrations of that which is in itself pure and holy—this, I think, is the worst [hear, hear]. If there be one chapter in the history of mankind which more vividly than another illustrates the deep depravity of man, it is that there has been a proved possibility of man taking the highest blessing which God himself can confer upon him, and prostituting it to the vilest, basest, meanest, paltriest purposes which statesmen can devise [loud cheers]. I know not what my brethren, Nonconformists, and ministers, too, of this sacred word, may think of this question, or what may be the considerations by which they are influenced in withholding their assent from any legitimate form of agitation by which truth on this subject may be diffused amongst thinking and intelligent people; but, for my own part, with the convictions that I have upon my mind, and the deep impression that has been made upon my own conscience, I could not have lived without giving expression to my feeling [cheers]. And as Paul said on one occasion, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel," so I feel, "Woe is me if I do not the power, and influence, and talent, and life that I possess be not consecrated to the accomplishment of this one great object—the separation of the Church from the State" [great cheering]. Sir, I hold the use made of religion by the statesmen who preside over our secular affairs to be a cruel betrayal of the trust committed to them [loud cheers]. Virtually, and on theory, we invest them with power for the protection of our life, our property, and our liberty. For this purpose we clothe them with high functions, and give to them extensive authority; we have surrounded them with an influence which lifts them out of the ordinary scale of human society, and attracts towards them the reverence, the admiration, and the devout homage, in many cases, of their fellow-men; and I say that to take this office, which has been constituted simply for the protection of social and personal interests, and render it the lever by which selfish objects shall be accomplished, through the corruption of the human mind and depravation of the human conscience, is as cruel to man as it is dishonouring to God [cheers]. What has been the history of our own country from the commencement? Who has not felt that whenever a civil change has been mooted—a change, perhaps, identified with the progress and expansion of the human mind and of social interests—the first impediment standing in the way has always been the established church [cheers]? Go back to any period of our history, and when will you find the church in connexion with the State standing forward to battle for the poor man's rights [applause]? At what period of the history of State-churchism have you ever found it going hand in hand with philanthropy for the accomplishment of great projects of usefulness to our fellow-men [hear, hear]? Has it not invariably stood in the way of all great political and social reforms [hear, hear]? Have not the power and the influence of the church been made use of in every locality, in order to bring to bear, if possible, the power of the aristocracy upon the masses of the people, for the accomplishment of their own selfish purposes [hear, hear]? Is not this State-churchism merely the ramified system of nerves by which the will of the Government is, as it were, communicated to every extremity of the empire? Could they work their purposes of injustice, but through the medium of this church? Would the people have been kept in dense and dark ignorance, unless it had been for the Established Church [hear, hear]? Would there have been the same irreverent immorality throughout the land—immorality, be it remembered, smiled upon, some hundred or hundred and fifty years back, by the authorized guardians of the spiritual interests of religion—would there have been the same amount of immorality, which is now complained of by our legislature in St. Stephen's, but for the fatal influence of the Established Church?

[applause.] And to turn away from that which is civil to that which is spiritual, who can have failed to perceive the deadening, the benumbing influence exerted upon all society by the fact of men in the upper classes of society, and consequently within the range of every observant eye, taking up the profession of Christianity? which is assumed, nearly always, for oppressive and unjust purposes. The consequence has been that Christianity, with a large mass of the people, has been identified with oppression [hear, hear]. "The poor man's church" is regarded as in no sense the church of the poor man, save as it is paid for out of the poor man's pocket [applause]. The interests of the great mass of the people had been neglected, socially, morally, intellectually, spiritually, until dissent, by its friction, awakened some sensibility in the conscience of the Church, and called forth her efforts, not so much to impart light, as to save those to whom light was being imparted from being altogether alienated from her bosom [loud cheers]. We believe that Providence has evidently pointed out this as the time in which we should carry on this great controversy. We look around us, and we see that, whatever may have been determined upon by Dissenters—whatever may be the course of conduct pursued by those who occupy high stations of influence among us—and however coldly they may look upon the agitation of this question—we see that events are pushing the subject forward, and that neither Dissenters nor Churchmen can possibly give it the go-by [cheers]. We might all of us meet together—the whole nation, if you please, might meet together—and determine that our differences of opinion on this subject should never in future be expressed—that we will pursue only the temporal interests of the people in our legislation, leaving entirely the question of State-churchism to be touched, if touched at all, by some future more enlightened generation; but we could not abide by our resolution, even if we would. All things are running into an ecclesiastical shape—all things are turning about this one great principle. There is scarcely a controversy of the day which does not, in some point or other, run against the Church [hear, hear]. There is no great political change to be effected in Great Britain, at the present time, which could be effected without endangering the position of the Church, and bringing up the discussion of that question. Look at Ireland, not merely at her present state of awful destitution, but look at her in her normal state. Every statesman is perfectly convinced that the time is come that something must be done for Ireland [cheers]. Is it possible, when they set to work to accomplish something for Ireland—is it possible to leave their work without attempting something touching the ecclesiastical condition of the people [hear, hear]? It may be, it is true, a very inconvenient question for Lord John Russell just at the present time ["Hear, hear," and laughter]—a question which may possibly split his Ministry, and some three or four other Ministries, to pieces [cheers], before it comes to a settlement—it may be, I say, a most inconvenient question for Lord John Russell to decide as to what is to be done with the Established Protestant Church in Ireland. They (the Ministry), perhaps, are resolved to a man upon maintaining it. Providence seems to have determined that it shall not be maintained [cheers]. They can only maintain it by creating another Establishment, and thus shifting all Establishments from the basis upon which they profess to rest. But whatever may be the mode in which they decide, the question will come up for discussion before the people of England and Scotland. The question will be put, on the one hand, whether it is right, whether it is decent, whether it is in accordance with our common notions of justice, whether it sympathizes with the spirit of our own religion, to have a Protestant establishment in Ireland, when the great mass of the people are Catholic; or the question will come up for discussion, whether the Protestants of this country intend to have the Catholic religion established by the Government. In one shape or another, without calling into question for a moment either the truth or the error of this or the other system, this great question must be decided, and in its decision Anti-state-church principles must necessarily come before the whole population [cheers]. Now, I would not like to have the responsibility upon my conscience, at all events, of shrinking from my part, when Providence has so evidently thrust the question of duty upon us, inasmuch as I clearly perceive that the hand of God is bringing forward this as the question of the present age, to be dealt with, and to be settled, probably, by the men of this generation, or, at all events, delivered over to the coming generation, in such a shape as it shall be settled, and peacefully settled, for ever. Inasmuch as I perceive that the hand of God is thus preparing events, I could not consent to take upon myself the responsibility of standing back, and refusing to give utterance to the truth that is in my own mind. I should regard it as an act of moral cowardice under any circumstances. I cannot conceive why light is poured into my understanding, except it should be that that is the medium through which light should reach the understandings of those who come within the boundary of my influence [cheers]. I believe that all the true principles which men possess, they possess simply as stewards; and that it is not for me to decide whether the time is come for me to enounce or to hold back my principles; but I conceive that whenever men possess light in the understanding, they are bound to reflect it in their speeches and conduct [cheers]. I do not know what is meant by those who say that the time is not come [applause]. I could very well understand what would be meant if those persons intended simply to enunciate this truth, that the time has not practically arrived for the settlement of the question. But we ask not for this; we do not expect it yet. We know that all settlements must be preceded by earnest and strenuous labour [hear, hear]. But has not the time come for us to speak when we have truth to enunciate, and when that truth is connected and identified with the best civil and spiritual interests of mankind? Can any man say that the time has not come that we should communicate such knowledge as we possess to all who may come within the range of our influence? Let there be a great plague, a natural plague, and calamity fall upon a people; let there be such a calamity as that which has overtaken Ireland at the present moment, where classes are perishing of destitution, in consequence of the failure of their main article of subsistence; and let any individual have communicated to him, either by study, or by suggestion from on high, the remedy by which he could cure disease in the one case, or supply food in the other, and would not the time be come for him to make known that remedy to all who might be concerned? [loud cheers]. Are we to deal otherwise in moral and spiritual matters? Are we not under responsibility to Him who entrusted to us all we have, to communicate as freely as we receive? And, inasmuch as we are convinced that the spiritual welfare of our fellow-creatures is bound up in the putting an end to the connexion between Church and State, I conceive we are under an obligation to God, instantly and without delay, to make known our views to our fellow-men. But there are special indications, even in other signs, that the time has come. In the first place, the mind of the country is now, at all events, vacated, if I may so speak, by other great and important questions. The time might not be come, in one sense; that is, to hope for any strenuous effort and assistance from Manchester whilst the Anti-corn-law League had yet their work to be accomplished. But has not the accomplishment of that work left Englishmen at liberty to listen to other considerations, having other bearings than those which were presented by the anti-corn-law confederation? Do we not find, in fact, a perfect dearth and deadness of feeling about political subjects? Party was actually knocked to pieces, split and thrown to the four winds of heaven, by the consistency of Sir R. Peel [laughter and cheers]. Politicians can no more trust each other. It is impossible for them now to build up any faction, because no members of a faction can trust the member of another to lead it [cheers]. We are all looking to principles rather than to parties—to measures rather than to men [great cheering]. And is not this a favourable time, at all events, to present great and important truths to the mind of the community? Look at all the mechanical improvements of the age. Why, but for the steam-press, but for penny postage, but for railway communication, you would never have carried your corn-law question [cheers]. All these things are facilities put into our hands by Divine Providence for working out results in accordance with His will [cheers]. I believe, with a preceding speaker, that there is a vast deal of involuntary voluntarism in the church itself [cheers]. I fear, with him, that the work will not be done by the Dissenters. I could wish that it had, in consistency with their own professions, for the honour of that religion which they undertake to exhibit to the world. Because I am a Dissenter myself, and honour the memory of that ancestry from which we descend, I should like to have seen this work accomplished by the integrity, the faithfulness, the moral elevation and devotedness, of those who professed dissent in this land [hear, hear]. But I confess that my views and prospects on this question have undergone considerable change. I fear it is not for us to accomplish the work. All that we can do is, that those who do perceive their duty should begin to work in it, devoutly believing that, when the proper time has come, Providence will furnish the conjuncture and events by which the results shall be determined [cheers]. But I think we are to look to other parties than those which mainly profess Dissent. There are people actually carrying out the voluntary principle in the Church itself [cheers]. Is not your own borough a perfect illustration of it [hear, hear]? How many of the ecclesiastical edifices in which, nominally, the supporters of the Church of

England meet, have been erected by voluntary contribution (cheers)? How many of them are supported by the gifts and the offerings of those who are attached to the system? Is your cathedral—I suppose we must call it so now, or soon shall have to do so—is your collegiate church of such prime influence in social, moral, and religious circles as to illustrate the vast superiority of the compulsory over the voluntary system (cheers)? Does it illustrate this fact in the eyes of churchmen themselves? Are they not beginning, with inflamed eyes and painful feelings, to look at the utter inefficiency and ingrained selfishness of the system, and to calculate that possibly the church might be placed on a better basis than that of compulsory endowment (cheers)? Why, we have heard of meetings in Manchester, at which Churchmen themselves took part, that the principle concerned themselves (hear, hear). We have heard of ecclesiastics, who were once, and are now, perhaps, highly respected in Manchester, going away, in order that they might enjoy some secular advantage. And we have heard of those who flourished under the ministry of such individuals, coming together and complaining of the legitimate results of the system which they are upholding with all their might. I say it is our duty to enlighten these people. I say that their hearts are right, but that their heads are wrong; and if we can only set their heads in harmony with their hearts, we shall then have a powerful and unsuspected body to work out the result for which we are contending—the entire separation of the Church and State. We have, therefore, every encouragement to go on in our work; and, whatever comes of it, surely it is sufficient satisfaction to every truly noble mind to be acting in accordance with the dictates of one's own conscience. Let us act as we believe the spirit of Christianity teaches us to act, not seeking the applause of men, not bowing down to the opinions of the age, but going before it, if God has given us sufficient light to precede our countrymen—labouring at all times to acquire the truth, and, when we have got it, to make it participated in by all around us, and then we care not, under such circumstances, personally, for success or failure. It is not for us to determine what results shall be (cheers). If we utterly fail, we shall have done our duty; and to be employed in continual obedience to the dictates of conscience is the happiest course that a man can pursue in this world, and I feel fully assured that it is the very best preparation for the next (loud and prolonged cheering).

The CHAIRMAN said he had to introduce to their notice a very good friend—one who was, moreover, a firm pillar of the Church—John Brooks, Esq. [great applause].

Mr. Brooks was received with renewed applause on rising to address the meeting—

He expressed his delight with the proceedings of that evening, and that he had been present to listen to the speeches which had been delivered. As to the pulling down of the Church, with which the Dissenters were charged, the thing was simply ridiculous. The people who talked in that style were not fit to be spoken to (laughter). It was certain there was a deal of rubbish about the Church which would require to be cleared away. The fact was, that, when once this rubbish was set fire to, it would burn till it burnt all away, and then they would become all as one holy family [applause]. He believed the Dissenters had not laboured in vain in this great object. He remembered the meetings held in this town twenty years before, to put down Church-rates. He had assisted in these meetings, and he believed that he was the only Churchman that was there (applause). He represented the Church on these occasions in the absence of the greater and more important men whose duty it was to be there—just as the corporal was placed in command when the superior officers were cut off in the battle (laughter). He had by that means helped to save the Church, and compelled it to act on the principle of taking only from those who received its instruction, just as in other things men only paid for what they got (laughter). He referred to some notices in the papers about important improvements in connexion with the Collegiate Church, which, he thought, were very much influenced by jealousy of the Roman Catholics, who were building grand cathedrals and chapels. But as the churchwardens, in making these improvements, were doing them with their own money, there was nothing to complain of. That was the right plan to take. The papers were also stating that the borough and county magistrates were to contribute to these improvements. Now he (Mr. Brooks) was a magistrate, but for one he did not intend to pay anything towards them, and for this reason, that his wife took him to another church, and he thought those who were to benefit by the improvements should pay for them out of their own pockets (great laughter).

After some further observations from Mr. Brooks, the motion was put and carried with acclamation.

Dr. NOLAN, of Ducie chapel, moved the next resolution—

He seldom, indeed never, made long speeches, but he was never more disinclined to speak than at that late hour, and after the able addresses they had listened to. He would only observe that he thought the committee intended a sly satire in selecting an Irishman to propose a resolution counselling moderation and forbearance in the conduct of this cause (laughter)—or it was perhaps a stroke of good management that a native of Ireland should be asked to support an Anti-state-church resolution, inasmuch as it was in Ireland they saw an endowed church without a people—a church alienated from the great mass of the people, whom it lived upon and kept in oppression. Yet in Ireland they had seen a gallant struggle for religious liberty. They had seen the poor, powerless, and oppressed portion of the empire—the Roman Catholics of Ireland—engage in a struggle for their rights, and Catholic Emancipation become the law of the land. They, the Anti-state-church party, would, he thought, by similar agitation, accomplish their object, as completely and as speedily as did the Irish people in the matter of Catholic Emancipation (applause). He firmly believed, however, that the moderation and love which the resolution enjoined were as needful to success as was the zeal and enthusiasm of which they had seen so great a display on that occasion (applause).

Mr. TIMOTHY FALVEY seconded the resolution:—

His being called on to perform this duty showed that the question which the Anti-state-church Association had been formed to carry out was one entirely independent and irrespective of creed or sect, religious or political (applause). Having been brought up in connexion with the episcopacy, which was of a much older date than that established in these realms (the Roman Catholic Church), it gave him very great pleasure to come before them, and declare his conviction that no power on earth ought to interfere between a man and his religious belief; and that a State-church was, and always had been, detrimental to the interests of mankind (great applause). His experience of the anti-corn-law agitation, and the success of that cause, had impressed on his mind a strong and earnest feeling, and a firm determination, to unite to carry out the principles of the Nonconformity of this country (applause). They (the Anti-state-church party) were as much in public favour, and had as much of public influence and support as had those who began the anti-corn-law agitation seven or eight years ago (cheers). And as far as it was permitted to men to see before them, the promoters of this cause had as great a likelihood to succeed as had the Anti-corn-law League in times gone by (applause). They had heard to-night of the base and sinister attempt being made by Statesmen to bribe the clergy of the Irish people—to make them the stipendiary hirelings of the State—the companions of the great and powerful, and the revellers in luxury, instead of the companions and councillors and comforters of the poor and humble of their flocks. He hoped the Anti-state-church Association would bring this scheme fairly and fully before the people of this country. The Irish bishops and priests had already declared—and he (Mr. Falvey) had a full belief in their declaration—they had declared that they will not allow their ecclesiastical system to be corrupted by State alliance (continued applause). He believed that there was as firm a determination on the part of Ireland to reject this Lord Lincoln bribe, or the bribe of the Prime Minister of England, as there was opposition to the injustice on the part of the people of England (applause). He did not know of anything more preposterous in modern legislation, of any proposition more intensely impudent and audacious, than this scheme of calling on the people of this country to support a religious system to which they were opposed (applause).

Mr. Falvey then related several instances of the continual persecution to which individuals were subjected through the existence of the State-church, in appointments to offices, the closing of the Universities against Dissenters, &c., and counselled them to take care of their strength. That strength lay in their votes; and if they took care of the votes, the votes would take care of the members [great applause]. They won the last

battle by the aid of that machinery, and by the same machinery they would win this also [applause].

Mr. PRENTICE, having been called on, briefly addressed the meeting—

He begged to move a vote of thanks to the deputation for coming among them, and for himself and the meeting he begged also to thank them for the instruction their able addresses had afforded them (applause). He was sure they all felt grateful to these gentlemen, who would be assured by their presence on that occasion that the Dissenters of Manchester were all right. Mr. Miall had rightly guessed their reason for previous remissness on this question. They wanted bread before they began to seek for the other reform. The first had been altogether or almost accomplished; and now they would have time to attend to the other question. There was, to be sure, not all the broad-cloth of Dissent to be seen at the meeting. There were men of respectability—who did not wish to compromise themselves, or to commit themselves too soon to a cause; but these would be with them by and by. But here he saw a pretty fair indication that middle-class Dissenters, who came out independent of their leaders, were determined to exert all the energy of Manchester men to carry this question (great applause). At the first commencement of the anti-corn-law agitation, they needed incitement at the time from Dr. Bowring (who was at the time just returned from a tour to all the continental states, urging them to adopt free trade) to rouse them to action. Then they sent forth their Cobdens and Brights, as the Anti-state-church Association were sending forth their Burnetts, and Prices, and Mialls. Once in earnest, the Dissenters of Manchester would do the same thing again for the accomplishment of the great object of disavowing the Church from the State (great cheering).

Mr. WILLIAM BURD, jun., seconded the motion. The deputation well deserved this expression of their feelings towards them in the laborious work in which they were engaged, especially when prosecuting it in parts of the country which might present less promising aspects and less encouragement (applause).

The motion having been passed by acclamation, Mr. MIALL returned thanks on behalf of himself and Dr. Price:—

They were grateful to them for meeting them on that occasion, and for the patience and attention with which they had listened to their statements. But he took it, that the Manchester people expressed their thanks in other ways than by acclamation (applause). If their list of members should be swollen up by the end of the week to the number that were then within the room, each member giving a good subscription, the deputation would be well satisfied (cheers). He begged, before sitting down, to propose a vote of thanks to Mr. Watts, for his urbanity and kindness in presiding on that occasion (cheers). In after days he (Mr. Miall) was sure that not the least pleasant of his (Mr. Watts's) reminiscences would be, that he had presided at the first Anti-state-church meeting held in Manchester (great applause).

The motion was seconded by Dr. PRICE, and carried by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN thanked them cordially for their kindness, and would only express the hope that the success of the meeting would not terminate there, but would be seen in a large increase in the list of members [cheers].

The meeting separated about eleven o'clock.

THE RUMOURED INCREASE OF BISHOPS.—The London correspondent of the *Dublin Mail* writes:—The proposition made by Lord John Russell to the Archbishop of Canterbury is this:—To create Manchester into a bishopric, giving to the new dignitary the usual seat in the House of Lords; or, should the heads of the Church prefer it, to create a number of new sees, those appointed not to have the honour of peerages. It is for the purpose of deliberating upon these two propositions that a meeting of the prelates has been summoned by his Grace. This meeting, we (*Post*) may add, has already been held. The bishops were requested to assemble at Queen Anne's Bounty-office, in Dean's-yard, and the principal apartment in that establishment was being prepared for them, when the fire broke out which, in great part, consumed the premises, though happily the damage did not extend to that portion of the building in which the valuable records and papers connected with the Church are preserved, as has been erroneously stated in some of our contemporaries. The meeting ultimately took place at the Bishop of London's residence, in St. James's-square, and we are informed that scarcely a member of the Episcopal bench was absent therefrom. The result of the conference has not transpired.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON.—The *Eclectic Review* for this month says, "Our right reverend diocesan of London has consecrated 500 churches, and that he receives a fee of £150 per church, producing £75,000. He also had, thereby, the disposal of 500 livings, each of them worth, on an average, £250 a year!!!"

THE ROMISH NEOPHYTES AT LEEDS.—One of the results of the investigation instituted by the Lord Bishop of Ripon into the proceedings at St. Saviour's Church, Leeds, has been the ascertaining that, on the very eve of Mr. Macmullen and his confederates formally abjuring Protestantism, they obtained the keys of that church, and therein celebrated a complete Roman Catholic service, in anticipation of the period when the church would be wholly in the hands of that communion! This outrageous conduct, irrational as it may appear, nevertheless strikingly illustrates the object of the Oxford and Cambridge Architectural Societies, and of those of the clergy who are daily dropping off from our communion, in expending money on church decorations and restorations; they expect that, ere long, these restorations will subserve the purpose of promoting mediæval forms, and hasten the day of "union with Rome!"—*Church and State Gazette*.

UNION OF THE UNITED SECESSION AND RELIEF CHURCHES.—An old correspondent corrects two errors which appeared in a paragraph inserted in our last number on this subject. The name proposed—"The United Church of the Secession and Relief"—was only a suggestion of the conjoint committee appointed to make arrangements for the meeting of their supreme courts. The union of these bodies has not yet formally taken place, nor is likely until their first appointed meeting, on the 10th of May, 1847. "Your readers south of the Tweed will be much gratified to know," says our correspondent, "that, were all vacancies at the present moment filled up, you might count upon not fewer than 500 ministers as fellow-workers."

REPRESENTATION OF GLASGOW.—The *Glasgow Argus* contradicts, on "authority," a rumour that Mr. Lumsden, the late Provost, is to be a candidate at the next election. All parties appear to expect that, in the event of a vacancy, Mr. McGregor, of the Board of Trade, will stand.

THE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT.

THE ADDRESS.

In the House of Commons, on Wednesday evening, when the report on the address was brought up, several members took the opportunity of making speeches.

Mr. HUME touched upon some omissions in the speech—such as education and prosecution of free trade—presuming, however, that they would not be neglected by Ministers. He advocated laws to facilitate the transfer of property in Ireland, especially of entailed property. He called upon Government to designate in stronger terms that act of atrocity, the annexation of Cracow, and to suspend the hush-money paid annually to the Emperor of Russia, about £100,000, for the redemption of the debt of that potentate.

Colonel SINTHROP guarded himself against being supposed to approve of various points in the speech, and declared that he should regard Ministers worthy of impeachment if they were not ready to suggest measures for the speedy restoration of Ireland.

Several Irish members followed up the appeal for assistance: Lord BERNARD, Mr. CALLAGHAN, Mr. SHARMAN CRAWFORD—who declared that the property of the country should be made responsible for the support of the poor,—Mr. FRENCH, and Mr. LEPROY.

Sir CHARLES WOOD (Chancellor of the Exchequer) replied that relief committees and workhouses had been authorized to make gratuitous distribution of food to the people. Sir GEORGE GRAY stated, more specifically, that instructions had been issued for the establishment of soup-kitchens in all districts where distress was severely felt. He explained that Government had not advanced money upon uncollected arrears of rates due in poor-law unions, because a disposition had been observed in Irish boards of guardians to shrink from the onerous duties of collecting the rates; and, in some places, applicants for relief had been refused admission to the workhouse. At Castlebar, although the house would contain 600 persons, and it had but 130 inmates, the doors were closed. In Scotland, the exertions of the landowners have been such that there have been only two deaths from want: those two occurred on the land of a person who was at first an exception to the general rule, but remained so no longer. There is no doubt that, by the praiseworthy exertions of the proprietors, Scotland will struggle successfully through the crisis.

Mr. BORTHWICK (dubbed by Lord George Bentinck, "Lord High Treasurer to King Charles the Fifth") lectured Ministers on the subject of the Montpensier marriage, and the claims of the Count de Montemolin.

Mr. PLUMPTRE was of opinion that the most important of the topics in the Royal speech was the awful distress in Ireland. To him that distress seemed to be a dispensation from Heaven on account of the guilt of either the rulers of that country or the people themselves. For his own part, he believed that the rulers were not free from blame; indeed, he firmly believed that one of the acts which had been recorded on the statute book two sessions ago—the Maynooth College Act—had drawn down the anger of God upon Ireland.

Mr. EWART expressed a hope that the subject of education, although not mentioned in the speech, would not be neglected in the session; and declared the wish of the English people that the friendly intercourse with France should not be interrupted.

The address was adopted, and ordered to be presented by such members of the House as belong to the Privy Council.

On Friday, the Queen's reply to the address was presented to the House by Lord MARCUS HILL:—

I received with great satisfaction your loyal and dutiful address. I look with entire confidence to your aiding my endeavours to preserve the blessings of peace abroad, and to promote at home the general welfare and happiness of my people. I feel assured that no exertions will be wanting on your part to meet my anxious wishes to relieve my suffering subjects in Ireland and in some districts of Scotland.

SUSPENSION OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE IMPORTATION OF CORN.

In the House of Commons, on Thursday evening, Lord JOHN RUSSELL moved for a committee of the whole House on the Corn-importation Act; stating that he should follow that motion with another on the Navigation-laws; but he should discuss both the subjects together. The House went into committee at once.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL explained the nature and object of the measures, beginning with the corn-duties, and taking his data from official returns:—

In many parts of the United Kingdom there has been a failure of the oat and rye crops; there was a partial failure, also, of the potato crop in England, a greater extent of failure in Scotland, and in Ireland it amounts to two-thirds or at least one-half of the potato crop. On the other hand, there was last year a very large importation of foreign corn and flour, equal to 4,800,000 quarters; and as the wheat crop was abundant, great part of the foreign corn admitted at the 4s. duty did not come immediately into consumption, nor did the prices in October and November last indicate any considerable apprehension of a rise. In the first week of October the price was 54s.; it steadily increased to 62s. 3d. in the first week of November, and as steadily declined to 59s. in the fourth week. From that time, however, there has been a considerable rise, which is still more striking as compared with the prices at harvest-time,—in August the price of wheat was 47s., in September 49s., on the 16th inst. 73s. 3d. The rise in the price of barley has been still more remarkable: for the first week of January in each of the following years it stood thus,—in 1842, 29s. 7d.; in 1843, 26s. 5d.; in 1844, 32s. 7d.; in 1845, 34s. 2d.; in 1846, 31s. 11d.; in 1847, first week 44s. 3d., second week 46s. 5d., third week 50s.; while for malting-barley the prices have ranged from 66s. to 70s., or even higher. In France, also, the harvest was deficient, and especially the potato crop; but in November the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce made a statement which evinced no serious apprehension of a rise of prices in Paris. The money value of the loss in potatoes in Ireland and Scotland is estimated at £12,000,000; and it is calculated that 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 quarters of wheat will be required to replace the deficiency. Last year, 4,800,000 quarters were imported into this country; but for the future, before next harvest, the prospect of supplies is much more precarious. The countries of Western Europe, instead of furnishing supplies, are competing with us. France, and the countries on the Rhine, have suspended

he took not care, he would fall again [cheers]. Important, however, as the political view of this case was, that sank into insignificance by the side of the religious aspect. The fact of our Government supporting such a monstrous medley of churches and creeds was enough to drive all faith in religious truth out of the world. But it seemed, from what had been said in that room only a few nights ago, that, as though there were not already more than enough of establishments,—a second church was about to be established in Ireland [hear, hear]—and that the people of this country were to be taxed for the support of it. The man who dared to propose such a thing in this country, whether prime minister, or whoever he might be, might date his doom from that hour [loud applause].

The motion was then put, and carried unanimously. The Rev. D. RHYS STEPHEN, in moving the next resolution, said—

The Executive Committee of the Association had been very active; and he believed they had done nothing which an honest and Christian man need be ashamed of. Books had been published, and lectures had been delivered; but the buyers of the one and the listeners to the other had pronounced both to be good. They would not scold and oppose, and therefore he had nothing to defend. He warned all who were half-hearted in this great and good cause not to pledge themselves to support this Society; for measures were about to be adopted that would test the sincerity of every man. They intended to prosecute their object most strenuously; and, if they carried it not before they died, they would leave it to their children to accomplish. He would rather leave to his children the name of a man who took up a principle from conviction of its truth, and adhered to it in spite of all obloquy and difficulty, than leave them any conceivable sum of money, and the name of half-hearted trucklers to expediency, who had no principle themselves, and cared not for it in others [much cheering].

Mr. Stephen said it was in contemplation to have lectures delivered in furtherance of the views of the Association.

The Rev. STEPHEN HOOPER seconded the resolution, which was then carried unanimously.

THOMAS PRICE, D.D., editor of the *Eclectic Review*, came forward amidst loud applause, and acknowledged, on the part of the Executive Committee, the resolution which had been adopted—

He then proceeded to give a history of the construction and machinery of the British Anti-state-church Society, premising that the Society had refrained from coming into Manchester until the noble struggle in which the town had been engaged for the achievement of free-trade, had been triumphantly and happily terminated, and stating his belief that here the Association would find its stronghold. The movement for the formation of this Society originated in the midland counties, and memorials were sent to different bodies in London, which had been long constituted, inviting them to co-operate; but the memorials were got rid of on technical objections, and in a way that was unworthy of those bodies. The parties in the midland counties then held a meeting at Leicester, and it was determined that a convention should be held in London. That convention was held in April, 1844. It was attended by 700 gentlemen, not as individuals, but as representatives of congregations and public meetings—of tens of thousands of people in all parts of the United Kingdom. They sat for three days, and their proceedings were characterized by unbroken harmony. They organized the Association, not in any sectarian or exclusive spirit, but for the simple and sole object of effecting the separation of the religious body from the secular body. The organization was not opposed to one ecclesiastical form more than another; it was not antagonistic to Episcopacy any more than it was antagonistic to Presbyterianism or Congregationalism. It knew nothing of any sect or denomination; but it embraced all who were one with it in antagonism to State-churchism. There belonged to it Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, and Methodists—all the infinite variety of sects which unhappily divided the Christian community. There belonged to it also some who bore no distinctive religious name, but who deemed a State Church to be unfriendly to religion, or injurious to the civil interests of a nation. Such was the constitution of the Society. Its machinery might be briefly described. Two bodies were organized: the one, consisting of fifty persons residing in various parts of the empire, entitled the Executive Committee; the other, a general council of five hundred. This arrangement was made with a double view. The Executive Committee was to secure efficiency and continuity of operation; the general council, scattered in various localities, throughout the whole kingdom, were regarded as central points for the spread of information and the furtherance of the contemplated object. And so solicitous were the framers of the society to guard against all cliques and local influence, and even that silent and imperceptible growth of power which attends human organizations, as well as to secure the continued vigour and healthfulness of young life, that it was determined that the society should every three years resolve itself into its original elements. At the expiration of the three years, another convention was to be held, the society reconstructed, officers and committees appointed, and such instructions given as might be advisable in the then circumstances of the empire. It was felt that there was some hazard in this; but it was thought the best mode for periodically infusing fresh life and vigour into the society. One part of the theory had not worked well. He frankly and unhesitatingly confessed that to a great extent the Council of 500 had proved an ineffective and unworkable body, owing to the fact that the parties put upon it were to a great extent selected in ignorance of their views and intentions. He said this in order that any gentleman going up to London, at the next triennial convention, which would be held in the ensuing spring, might be prepared with the names of men in their locality who could be depended upon for furthering the cause in hand. The speaker next proceeded to point out, that although a retrospective view was not altogether without bright points, the Nonconformist body had hitherto confined themselves too much to what was called practical grievances. Now, however, it was felt that something was due to themselves, to their principles, and to their church—that, instead of the practical grievance system, they should adopt an aggressive system, not against the Episcopal church as such, but against the Church of England as a State creation—a thing which the law had called into being, and which the law might therefore extinguish [great cheering]. It was felt that an aggressive movement was called for against this as the most enormous and crying evil of the day—an evil, not simply in reference to religion, but also in relation to social life and the general interest of the commonwealth. They determined, therefore, to give the society a title which could easily be understood, and which should designate its one object. From the first they anticipated hard work and much obloquy. They knew, from the history of past movements, what the early stages of all were; and they did not anticipate that in a movement antagonistic to great interests, combining together large and influential classes—classes hitherto ruling to a great extent the destinies of our country, and still imprinting their character upon its laws—they did not imagine that such a movement was to be carried through its early, least popular, and least attractive stages, without drawing upon them much obloquy. They were prepared to meet with open and avowed opponents. They were aware that, in the nature of things, there must be hundreds and thousands of men who were as honestly attached to the State-church as they (the Dissenters) were opposed to it; who fully believed that it had the sanction of God's holy book, and was calculated to work great good. They knew nothing of that party which refused to give to the opposition of men, in all other respects honourable, the same credit for sincerity which they claimed [great cheering]; and let those who would misrepresent the proceedings of the Association bear witness to the fact, that they gave, in thousands of instances, so far as integrity and earnestness were concerned, the same credit which they themselves claimed [applause]. They would endeavour to avoid misrepresenting others; and all they asked was, that others should be equally careful to avoid misrepresenting them. They had been misrepresented, but it was from ignorance of their principles. They were charged with a restlessness of spirit which sought to pull down all sacred, and to desecrate all holy things. But they loved religion too much to act thus. If they knew themselves, they were impelled by the fervour of religious attachment, and by strong principle, to the course they were pursuing. That the members of the Establishment should misunderstand them they did not wonder; but that some others should have misunderstood them was surprising. Closer contact would, however, he trusted, remove those misapprehensions. In many cases they had been removed; prejudices had vanished; and very many, who before had courteously retreated from them, were now disposed, on a fair discussion being offered, to step into their ranks. There were signs of the times which led him to believe, that it might be said of the Dissenters, "You were summoned to a work, but proved yourselves unworthy of it. That work is taken from your hands, and will be committed to others." There was growing up within

the Established Church a feeling which, like the accumulated water of a mountain torrent, must break a vent for itself. The meeting were aware of what had occurred in Scotland, and the marvel was, that our Baptist Noels and Bickersteths in England should not feel themselves placed under a similar constraint. But there was growing up, without the pale of the Established Church, in the great mass of the people, a feeling, perfectly apart from religious feeling—a feeling that this State-church system was full of wrong to them; there was an enmity to this system growing up on various grounds, and the time must come when that enmity would show itself. He had heard it said, "Here is a class of public functionaries paid really by the State, only in a form different from that in which the State pays civil functionaries. They are paid by an annual revenue, derived mainly from tithes; these tithes constitute a portion of the national revenue, and, by act of Parliament, have been given to the Protestant Church of England. Here are seven, or eight, or nine millions a year appropriated to a service which we deem pernicious to the land, and without which we deem that the civil and religious interests of the country would be promoted. Why, then, spend so large a sum on such a service?" When he remembered that they were in Manchester now, and that this was the first meeting they had held in the town, he confessed that he was cheered. There was something exhilarating in such a spectacle, after other scenes [cheers]. Having returned thanks on behalf of the Executive Committee, he said that the resolution would cause them to commit themselves more earnestly, if possible, to the course in which they were engaged. They should labour, God willing, till the work was brought to such a stage that others might take their posts and carry it on. Whatever personal sacrifices or toil might be incurred, his colleagues would freely bear it, until they were relieved by men whom they would heartily welcome to their ranks [great and prolonged applause].

The Rev. Mr. MORRIS moved the next resolution.

He alluded to the declaration of opinion made in that room, by Lord Lincoln, in favour of the endowment of the Roman Catholic clergy, as an additional inducement for strong exertion at this period, to manifest their hostility to, and determination to abolish, all connexion between the State and religion. They stood at the end of one great contest, the recollection of which ought to animate them; and, in the present struggle, they must bear in mind that they had the sympathy of some of those men who had been engaged in the now successful contest alluded to—nay, if possible, a more intense sympathy than they had manifested in the past contest [cheers].

EDWARD MIAL, Esq., editor of the *Nonconformist*, came forward to second the motion, amidst continuous bursts of the most enthusiastic applause. He said:—

Mr. Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen,—I have been already very considerably relieved from that weight of responsibility which I felt when first I entered this room, and knew that it would be my duty to address myself to a Manchester audience. I cannot conceal from you, nor would I conceal from myself, the gratification which I have felt this night in witnessing the mode, the characteristic mode, in which you have at last put your hands to a cause more important, in my estimation, to the civil and spiritual interests of mankind, than any cause which has been agitated since the first introduction of Christianity to the world [cheers]. I think it augurs well—augurs great and glorious things, that the people of Manchester have thrown themselves—for I take you to be the representatives of the real people—have thrown themselves with energy and spirit, as is their wont, into this question; and I feel assured that nothing now is wanted on my part to heighten your own sense of the importance of persevering in the course you have marked out for yourselves. I am sure I need not be ashamed to avow before this audience, as I have avowed before the world, that the principal interest which I take in the question now under consideration is an interest based upon religious judgment and feeling. I felt this question pressing upon my conscience years ago, giving me no rest [hear, hear]. So deeply were my own feelings excited by the contemplation of what appeared to be the apathy and insensibility of the religious world upon the question of state churches, that I was powerfully impelled—nor could I, with any regard to my present or future happiness, resist the impulse—to come forth from the position—the ecclesiastical and spiritual position which I held in the church—if only I might be permitted to devote the remainder of my life to diffuse some knowledge among my fellow-men upon this great question [applause]. I am an ardent believer in Christianity. I see in that system a beautiful and glorious representation of the majesty and the beneficence of God [hear, hear]. I feel it to be exquisitely adapted to work out all the high moral purposes for which it has been sent into our ruined world [hear, hear]. I feel perfectly assured, that had it been promulgated in the spirit of apostolic simplicity and zeal, for the days when it was first preached in poverty until the present moment, all nations would now have been rejoicing in its light, and, even in temporal respects, the family of mankind might have glorified God for the blessing that had been bestowed upon them [hear, hear]. And I am sure, that if in any respect this truth has failed to work out the results for which it is well adapted, and for which it is intended—I know not that any cause can be assigned more powerful in impeding its proper and legitimate results, than that which has abandoned over this religion,—this pure, this moral, this spiritual, this divine religion, into the hands of secular politicians, to be made the tool by which they are to work out their own purposes [cheers]. Of all desecrations that have ever disgraced human nature—desecrations of that which is in itself pure and holy—this, I think, is the worst [hear, hear]. If there be one chapter in the history of mankind which more vividly than another illustrates the deep depravity of man, it is that there has been a proved possibility of man taking the highest blessing which God himself can confer upon him, and prostituting it to the vilest, basest, meanest, paltriest purposes which statesmen can devise [loud cheers]. I know not what my brethren, Nonconformists, and ministers, too, of this sacred word, may think of this question, or what may be the considerations by which they are influenced in withholding their assent from any legitimate form of agitation by which truth on this subject may be diffused amongst thinking and intelligent people; but, for my own part, with the convictions that I have upon my mind, and the deep impression that has been made upon my own conscience, I could not have lived without giving expression to my feeling [cheers]. And as Paul said on one occasion, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel," so I feel, "Woe is me if all the power, and influence, and talent, and life that I possess be not consecrated to the accomplishment of this one great object—the separation of the Church from the State" [great cheering]. Sir, I hold the use made of religion by the statesmen who preside over our secular affairs to be a cruel betrayal of the trust committed to them [loud cheers]. Virtually, and on theory, we invest them with power for the protection of our life, our property, and our liberty. For this purpose we clothe them with high functions, and give to them extensive authority; we have surrounded them with an influence which lifts them out of the ordinary scale of human society, and attracts towards them the reverence, the admiration, and the devout homage, in many cases, of their fellow-men; and I say that to take this office, which has been constituted simply for the protection of social and personal interests, and render it the lever by which selfish objects shall be accomplished, through the corruption of the human mind and depravation of the human conscience, is as cruel to man as it is dishonouring to God [cheers]. What has been the history of our own country from the commencement? Who has not felt that whenever a civil change has been mooted—a change, perhaps, identified with the progress and expansion of the human mind and of social interests—the first impediment standing in the way has always been the established church [cheers]? Go back to any period of our history, and when will you find the church in connexion with the State standing forward to battle for the poor man's rights [applause]? At what period of the history of State-churchism have you ever found it going hand in hand with philanthropy for the accomplishment of great projects of usefulness to our fellow-men [hear, hear]? Has it not invariably stood in the way of all great political and social reforms [hear, hear]? Have not the power and the influence of the church been made use of in every locality, in order to bring to bear, if possible, the power of the aristocracy upon the masses of the people, for the accomplishment of their own selfish purposes [hear, hear]? Is not this State-churchism merely the ramified system of nerves by which the will of the Government is, as it were, communicated to every extremity of the empire? Could they work their purposes of injustice, but through the medium of this church? Would the people have been kept in dense and dark ignorance, unless it had been for the Establishment Church [hear, hear]? Would there have been the same irreverent immorality throughout the land—immorality, be it remembered, smiled upon, some hundred or hundred and fifty years back, by the authorized guardians of the spiritual interests of religion—would there have been the same amount of immorality, which is now complained of by our legislature in St. Stephen's, but for the fatal influence of the Established Church?

[applause.] And to turn away from that which is civil to that which is spiritual, who can have failed to perceive the deadening, the benumbing influence exerted upon all society by the fact of men in the upper classes of society, and consequently within the range of every observant eye, taking up the profession of Christianity? which is assumed, nearly always, for oppressive and unjust purposes. The consequence has been that Christianity, with a large mass of the people, has been identified with oppression [hear, hear]. "The poor man's church" is regarded as in no sense the church of the poor man, save as it is paid for out of the poor man's pocket [applause]. The interests of the great mass of the people had been neglected, socially, morally, intellectually, spiritually, until dissent, by its friction, awakened some sensibility in the conscience of the Church, and called forth her efforts, not so much to impart light, as to save those to whom light was being imparted from being altogether alienated from her bosom [loud cheers]. We believe that Providence has evidently pointed out this as the time in which we should carry on this great controversy. We look around us, and we see that, whatever may have been determined upon by Dissenters—whatever may be the course of conduct pursued by those who occupy high stations of influence among us—and however coldly they may look upon the agitation of this question—we see that events are pushing the subject forward, and that neither Dissenters nor Churchmen can possibly give it the go-by [cheers]. We might all of us meet together—the whole nation, if you please, might meet together—and determine that our differences of opinion on this subject should never in future be expressed—that we will pursue only the temporal interests of the people in our legislation, leaving entirely the question of State-churchism to be touched, if touched at all, by some future more enlightened generation; but we could not abide by our resolution, even if we would. All things are running into an ecclesiastical shape—all things are turning about this one great principle. There is scarcely a controversy of the day which does not, in some point or other, run against the Church [hear, hear]. There is no great political change to be effected in Great Britain, at the present time, which could be effected without endangering the position of the Church, and bringing up the discussion of that question. Look at Ireland, not merely at her present state of awful destitution, but look at her in her normal state. Every statesman is perfectly convinced that the time is come that something must be done for Ireland [cheers]. Is it possible, when they set to work to accomplish something for Ireland—is it possible to leave their work without attempting something touching the ecclesiastical condition of the people [hear, hear]? It may be, it is true, a very inconvenient question for Lord John Russell just at the present time ["Hear, hear," and laughter]—a question which may possibly split his Ministry, and some three or four other Ministries, to pieces [cheers], before it comes to a settlement—it may be, I say, a most inconvenient question for Lord John Russell to decide as to what is to be done with the Established Protestant Church in Ireland. They (the Ministry), perhaps, are resolved to a man upon maintaining it. Providence seems to have determined that it shall not be maintained [cheers]. They can only maintain it by creating another Establishment, and thus shifting all Establishments from the basis upon which they profess to rest. But whatever may be the mode in which they decide, the question will come up for discussion before the people of England and Scotland. The question will be put, on the one hand, whether it is right, whether it is decent, whether it is in accordance with our common notions of justice, whether it sympathizes with the spirit of our own religion, to have a Protestant establishment in Ireland, when the great mass of the people are Catholic; or the question will come up for discussion, whether the Protestants of this country intend to have the Catholic religion established by the Government. In one shape or another, without calling into question for a moment either the truth or the error of this or the other system, this great question must be decided, and in its decision Anti-state-church principles must necessarily come before the whole population [cheers]. Now, I would not like to have the responsibility upon my conscience, at all events, of shrinking from my part, when Providence has so evidently thrust the question of duty upon us, inasmuch as I clearly perceive that the hand of God is bringing forward this as the question of the present age, to be dealt with, and to be settled, probably, by the men of this generation, or, at all events, delivered over to the coming generation, in such a shape as it shall be settled, and peaceably settled, for ever. Inasmuch as I perceive that the hand of God is thus preparing events, I could not consent to take upon myself the responsibility of standing back, and refusing to give utterance to the truth that is in my own mind. I should regard it as an act of moral cowardice under any circumstances. I cannot conceive why light is poured into my understanding, except it should be that that is the medium through which light should reach the understandings of those who come within the boundary of my influence [cheers]. I believe that all the true principles which men possess, they possess simply as stewards; and that it is not for me to decide whether the time is come for me to enounce or to hold back my principles; but I conceive that whenever men possess light in the understanding, they are bound to reflect it in their speeches and conduct [cheers]. I do not know what is meant by those who say that the time is not come [applause]. I could very well understand what would be meant if those persons intended simply to enunciate this truth, that the time has not practically arrived for the settlement of the question. But we ask not for this; we do not expect it yet. We know that all settlements must be preceded by earnest and strenuous labour [hear, hear]. But has not the time come for us to speak when we have truth to enunciate, and when that truth is connected and identified with the best civil and spiritual interests of mankind? Can any man say that the time has not come that we should communicate such knowledge as we possess to all who may come within the range of our influence? Let there be a great plague, a natural plague, and calamity fall upon a people; let there be such a calamity as that which has overtaken Ireland at the present moment, where classes are perishing of destitution, in consequence of the failure of their main article of subsistence; and let any individual have communicated to him, either by study, or by suggestion from on high, the remedy by which he could cure disease in the one case, or supply food in the other, and would not the time be come for him to make known that remedy to all who might be concerned? [loud cheers]. Are we to deal otherwise in moral and spiritual matters? Are we not under responsibility to Him who entrusted to us all we have, to communicate as freely as we receive? And, inasmuch as we are convinced that the spiritual welfare of our fellow-creatures is bound up in the putting an end to the connexion between Church and State, I conceive we are under an obligation to God, instantly and without delay, to make known our views to our fellow-men. But there are special indications, even in other signs, that the time has come. In the first place, the mind of the country is now, at all events, vacated, if I may so speak, by other great and important questions. The time might not be come, in one sense; that is, to hope for any strenuous effort and assistance from Manchester whilst the Anti-corn-law League had yet their work to be accomplished. But has not the accomplishment of that work left Englishmen at liberty to listen to other considerations, having other bearings than those which were presented by the anti-corn-law confederation? Do we not find, in fact, a perfect dearth and deadness of feeling about political subjects? Party was actually knocked to pieces, split and thrown to the four winds of heaven, by the consistency of Sir R. Peel [laughter and cheers]. Politicians can no more trust each other. It is impossible for them now to build up any faction, because no members of a faction can trust the member of another to lead it [cheers]. We are all looking to principles rather than to parties—to measures rather than to men [great cheering]. And is not this a favourable time, at all events, to present great and important truths to the mind of the community? Look at all the mechanical improvements of the age. Why, but for the steam-press, but for penny postage, but for railway communication, you would never have carried your corn-law question [cheers]. All these things are facilities put into our hands by Divine Providence for working out results in accordance with His will [cheers]. I believe, with a preceding speaker, that there is a vast deal of involuntary voluntarism in the church itself [cheers]. I fear, with him, that the work will not be done by the Dissenters. I could wish that it had, in consistency with their own professions, for the honour of that religion which they undertake to exhibit to the world. Because I am a Dissenter myself, and honour the memory of that ancestry from which we descend, I should like to have seen this work accomplished by the integrity, the faithfulness, the moral elevation and devotedness, of those who professed dissent in this land [hear, hear]. But I confess that my views and prospects on this question have undergone considerable change. I fear it is not for us to accomplish the work. All that we can do is, that those who do perceive their duty should begin to work in it, devoutly believing that, when the proper time has come, Providence will furnish the conjuncture and events by which the results shall be determined [cheers]. But I think we are to look to other parties than those which mainly profess Dissent. There are people actually carrying out the voluntary principle in the Church itself [cheers]. Is not your own borough a perfect illustration of it [hear, hear]? How many of the ecclesiastical edifices in which, nominally, the supporters of the Church of

England meet, have been erected by voluntary contribution (cheers)? How many of them are supported by the gifts and the offerings of those who are attached to the system? Is your cathedral—I suppose we must call it so now, or soon shall have to do so—is your collegiate church of such prime influence in social, moral, and religious circles as to illustrate the vast superiority of the compulsory over the voluntary system (cheers)? Does it illustrate this fact in the eyes of churchmen themselves? Are they not beginning, with inflamed eyes and painful feelings, to look at the utter inefficiency and ingrained selfishness of the system, and to calculate that possibly the church might be placed on a better basis than that of compulsory endowment (cheers)? Why, we have heard of meetings in Manchester, at which Churchmen themselves took part, that the principle concerned themselves (hear, hear). We have heard of ecclesiastics, who were once, and are now, perhaps, highly respected in Manchester, going away, in order that they might enjoy some secular advantage. And we have heard of those who flourished under the ministry of such individuals, coming together and complaining of the legitimate results of the system which they are upholding with all their might. I say it is our duty to enlighten these people. I say that their hearts are right, but that their heads are wrong; and if we can only set their heads in harmony with their hearts, we shall then have a powerful and unsuspected body to work out the result for which we are contending—the entire separation of the Church and State. We have, therefore, every encouragement to go on in our work; and, whatever comes of it, surely it is sufficient satisfaction to every truly noble mind to be acting in accordance with the dictates of one's own conscience. Let us act as we believe the spirit of Christianity teaches us to act, not seeking the applause of men, not bowing down to the opinions of the age, but going before it, if God has given us sufficient light to precede our countrymen—labouring at all times to acquire the truth, and, when we have got it, to make it participated in by all around us, and then we care not, under such circumstances, personally, for success or failure. It is not for us to determine what results shall be (cheers). If we utterly fail, we shall have done our duty; and to be employed in continual obedience to the dictates of conscience is the happiest course that a man can pursue in this world, and I feel fully assured that it is the very best preparation for the next (loud and prolonged cheering).

The CHAIRMAN said he had to introduce to their notice a very good friend—one who was, moreover, a firm pillar of the Church—John Brooks, Esq. [great applause].

Mr. Brooks was received with renewed applause on rising to address the meeting—

He expressed his delight with the proceedings of that evening, and that he had been present to listen to the speeches which had been delivered. As to the pulling down of the Church, with which the Dissenters were charged, the thing was simply ridiculous. The people who talked in that style were not fit to be spoken to (laughter). It was certain there was a deal of rubbish about the Church which would require to be cleared away. The fact was, that, when once this rubbish was set fire to, it would burn till it burnt all away, and then they would become all as one holy family [applause]. He believed the Dissenters had not laboured in vain in this great object. He remembered the meetings held in this town twenty years before, to put down Church-rates. He had assisted in these meetings, and he believed that he was the only Churchman that was there (applause). He represented the Church on these occasions in the absence of the greater and more important men whose duty it was to be there—just as the corporal was placed in command when the superior officers were cut off in the battle (laughter). He had by that means helped to save the Church, and compelled it to act on the principle of taking only from those who received its instruction, just as in other things men only paid for what they got (laughter). He referred to some notices in the papers about important improvements in connexion with the Collegiate Church, which, he thought, were very much influenced by jealousy of the Roman Catholics, who were building grand cathedrals and chapels. But as the churchwardens, in making these improvements, were doing them with their own money, there was nothing to complain of. That was the right plan to take. The papers were also stating that the borough and county magistrates were to contribute to these improvements. Now he (Mr. Brooks) was a magistrate, but for one he did not intend to pay anything towards them, and for this reason, that his wife took him to another church, and he thought those who were to benefit by the improvements should pay for them out of their own pockets (great laughter).

After some further observations from Mr. Brooks, the motion was put and carried with acclamation.

Dr. NOLAN, of Ducie chapel, moved the next resolution—

He seldom, indeed never, made long speeches, but he was never more disinclined to speak than at that late hour, and after the able addresses they had listened to. He would only observe that he thought the committee intended a sly satire in selecting an Irishman to propose a resolution counselling moderation and forbearance in the conduct of this cause (laughter)—or it was perhaps a stroke of good management that a native of Ireland should be asked to support an Anti-state-church resolution, inasmuch as it was in Ireland they saw an endowed church without a people—a church alienated from the great mass of the people, whom it lived upon and kept in oppression. Yet in Ireland they had seen a gallant struggle for religious liberty. They had seen the poor, powerless, and oppressed portion of the empire—the Roman Catholics of Ireland—engage in a struggle for their rights, and Catholic Emancipation become the law of the land. They, the Anti-state-church party, would, he thought, by similar agitation, accomplish their object, as completely and as speedily as did the Irish people in the matter of Catholic Emancipation (applause). He firmly believed, however, that the moderation and love which the resolution enjoined were as needful to success as was the zeal and enthusiasm of which they had seen so great a display on that occasion (applause).

Mr. TIMOTHY FALVEY seconded the resolution:—

His being called on to perform this duty showed that the question which the Anti-state-church Association had been formed to carry out was one entirely independent and irrespective of creed or sect, religious or political (applause). Having been brought up in connexion with the episcopacy, which was of a much older date than that established in these realms (the Roman Catholic Church), it gave him very great pleasure to come before them, and declare his conviction that no power on earth ought to interfere between a man and his religious belief; and that a State-church was, and always had been, detrimental to the interests of mankind (great applause). His experience of the anti-corn-law agitation, and the success of that cause, had impressed on his mind a strong and earnest feeling, and a firm determination, to unite to carry out the principles of the Nonconformity of this country (applause). They (the Anti-state-church party) were as much in public favour, and had as much of public influence and support as had those who began the anti-corn-law agitation seven or eight years ago (cheers). And as far as it was permitted to men to see before them, the promoters of this cause had as great a likelihood to succeed as had the Anti-corn-law League in times gone by (applause). They had heard to-night of the base and sinister attempt being made by Statesmen to bribe the clergy of the Irish people—to make them the stipendiary hirelings of the State—the companions of the great and powerful, and the revellers in luxury, instead of the companions and counsellors and comforters of the poor and humble of their flock. He hoped the Anti-state-church Association would bring this scheme fairly and fully before the people of this country. The Irish bishops and priests had already declared—and he (Mr. Falvey) had a full belief in their declaration—they had declared that they will not allow their ecclesiastical system to be corrupted by State alliance (continued applause). He believed that there was as firm a determination on the part of Ireland to reject this Lord Lincoln bribe, or the bribe of the Prime Minister of England, as there was opposition to the injustice on the part of the people of England (applause). He did not know of anything more preposterous in modern legislation, or any proposition more intensely impudent and audacious, than this scheme of calling on the people of this country to support a religious system to which they were opposed (applause).

Mr. Falvey then related several instances of the continual persecution to which individuals were subjected through the existence of the State-church, in appointments to offices, the closing of the Universities against Dissenters, &c., and counselled them to take care of their strength. That strength lay in their votes; and if they took care of the votes, the votes would take care of the members [great applause]. They won the last

battle by the aid of that machinery, and by the same machinery they would win this also [applause].

Mr. PRENTICE, having been called on, briefly addressed the meeting—

He begged to move a vote of thanks to the deputation for coming among them, and for himself and the meeting he begged also to thank them for the instruction their able addresses had afforded them (applause). He was sure they all felt grateful to these gentlemen, who would be assured by their presence on that occasion that the Dissenters of Manchester were all right. Mr. Miall had rightly guessed their reason for previous remissness on this question. They wanted bread before they began to seek for the other reform. The first had been altogether or almost accomplished; and now they would have time to attend to the other question. There was, to be sure, not all the broad-cloth of Dissent to be seen at the meeting. There were men of respectability—of timidity—who did not wish to compromise themselves, or to commit themselves too soon to a cause; but these would be with them by and by. But here he saw a pretty fair indication that middle-class Dissenters, who came out independent of their leaders, were determined to exert all the energy of Manchester men to carry this question (great applause). At the first commencement of the anti-corn-law agitation, they needed incitement at the time from Dr. Bowring (who was at the time just returned from a tour to all the continental states, urging them to adopt free trade) to rouse them to action. Then they sent forth their Cobdens and Brights, as the Anti-state-church Association were sending forth their Burnetts, and Prices, and Mialls. Once in earnest, the Dissenters of Manchester would do the same thing again for the accomplishment of the great object of disavowing the Church from the State (great cheering).

Mr. WILLIAM BURD, jun., seconded the motion. The deputation well deserved this expression of their feelings towards them in the laborious work in which they were engaged, especially when prosecuting it in parts of the country which might present less promising aspects and less encouragement (applause).

The motion having been passed by acclamation, Mr. MIALL returned thanks on behalf of himself and Dr. Price:—

They were grateful to them for meeting them on that occasion, and for the patience and attention with which they had listened to their statements. But he took it, that the Manchester people expressed their thanks in other ways than by acclamation (applause). If their list of members should be swollen up by the end of the week to the number that were then within the room, each member giving a good subscription, the deputation would be well satisfied (cheers). He begged, before sitting down, to propose a vote of thanks to Mr. Watts, for his urbanity and kindness in presiding on that occasion (cheers). In after days he (Mr. Miall) was sure that not the least pleasant of his (Mr. Watts's) reminiscences would be, that he had presided at the first Anti-state-church meeting held in Manchester (great applause).

The motion was seconded by Dr. PRICE, and carried by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN thanked them cordially for their kindness, and would only express the hope that the success of the meeting would not terminate there, but would be seen in a large increase in the list of members [cheers].

The meeting separated about eleven o'clock.

THE RUMOURED INCREASE OF BISHOPS.—The London correspondent of the *Dublin Mail* writes:—The proposition made by Lord John Russell to the Archbishop of Canterbury is this:—To create Manchester into a bishopric, giving to the new dignitary the usual seat in the House of Lords; or, should the heads of the Church prefer it, to create a number of new sees, those appointed not to have the honour of peerages. It is for the purpose of deliberating upon these two propositions that a meeting of the prelates has been summoned by his Grace. This meeting, we (*Post*) may add, has already been held. The bishops were requested to assemble at Queen Anne's Bounty-office, in Dean's-yard, and the principal apartment in that establishment was being prepared for them, when the fire broke out which, in great part, consumed the premises, though happily the damage did not extend to that portion of the building in which the valuable records and papers connected with the Church are preserved, as has been erroneously stated in some of our contemporaries. The meeting ultimately took place at the Bishop of London's residence, in St. James's-square, and we are informed that scarcely a member of the Episcopal bench was absent therefrom. The result of the conference has not transpired.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON.—The *Eclectic Review* for this month says, "Our right reverend diocesan of London has consecrated 500 churches, and that he receives a fee of £150 per church, producing £75,000. He also had, thereby, the disposal of 500 livings, each of them worth, on an average, £250 a year!!!"

THE ROMISH NEOPHYTES AT LEEDS.—One of the results of the investigation instituted by the Lord Bishop of Ripon into the proceedings at St. Saviour's Church, Leeds, has been the ascertaining that, on the very eve of Mr. Macmullen and his confederates formally abjuring Protestantism, they obtained the keys of that church, and therein celebrated a complete Roman Catholic service, in anticipation of the period when the church would be wholly in the hands of that communion! This outrageous conduct, irrational as it may appear, nevertheless strikingly illustrates the object of the Oxford and Cambridge Architectural Societies, and of those of the clergy who are daily dropping off from our communion, in expending money on church decorations and restorations; they expect that, ere long, these restorations will subserve the purpose of promoting mediæval forms, and hasten the day of "union with Rome!"—*Church and State Gazette*.

UNION OF THE UNITED SECESSION AND RELIEF CHURCHES.—An old correspondent corrects two errors which appeared in a paragraph inserted in our last number on this subject. The name proposed—"The United Church of the Secession and Relief"—was only a suggestion of the conjoint committee appointed to make arrangements for the meeting of their supreme courts. The union of these bodies has not yet formally taken place, nor is likely until their first appointed meeting, on the 10th of May, 1847. "Your readers south of the Tweed will be much gratified to know," says our correspondent, "that, were all vacancies at the present moment filled up, you might count upon not fewer than 500 ministers as fellow-workers."

REPRESENTATION OF GLASGOW.—The *Glasgow Argus* contradicts, on "authority," a rumour that Mr. Lumsden, the late Provost, is to be a candidate at the next election. All parties appear to expect that, in the event of a vacancy, Mr. McGregor, of the Board of Trade, will stand.

THE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT.

THE ADDRESS.

In the House of Commons, on Wednesday evening, when the report on the address was brought up, several members took the opportunity of making speeches.

Mr. HUME touched upon some omissions in the speech—such as education and prosecution of free trade—presuming, however, that they would not be neglected by Ministers. He advocated laws to facilitate the transfer of property in Ireland, especially of entailed property. He called upon Government to designate in stronger terms that act of atrocity, the annexation of Cracow, and to suspend the hush-money paid annually to the Emperor of Russia, about £100,000, for the redemption of the debt of that potentate.

Colonel SMITHORP guarded himself against being supposed to approve of various points in the speech, and declared that he should regard Ministers worthy of impeachment if they were not ready to suggest measures for the speedy restoration of Ireland.

Several Irish members followed up the appeal for assistance: LORD BERNARD, MR. CALLAGHAN, MR. SHARMAN CRAWFORD—who declared that the property of the country should be made responsible for the support of the poor,—MR. FRENCH, and MR. LEFROY.

SIR CHARLES WOOD (Chancellor of the Exchequer) replied that relief committees and workhouses had been authorized to make gratuitous distribution of food to the people. SIR GEORGE GREY stated, more specifically, that instructions had been issued for the establishment of soup-kitchens in all districts where distress was severely felt. He explained that Government had not advanced money upon uncollected arrears of rates due in poor-law unions, because a disposition had been observed in Irish boards of guardians to shrink from the onerous duties of collecting the rates; and, in some places, applicants for relief had been refused admission to the workhouse. At Castlebar, although the house would contain 600 persons, and it had but 130 inmates, the doors were closed. In Scotland, the exertions of the landowners have been such that there have been only two deaths from want: those two occurred on the land of a person who was at first an exception to the general rule, but remained so no longer. There is no doubt that, by the praiseworthy exertions of the proprietors, Scotland will struggle successfully through the crisis.

MR. BORTHWICK (dubbed by Lord George Bentinck, "Lord High Treasurer to King Charles the Fifth") lectured Ministers on the subject of the Montpensier marriage, and the claims of the Count de Montemolin.

MR. PLUMPTRE was of opinion that the most important of the topics in the Royal speech was the awful distress in Ireland. To him that distress seemed to be a dispensation from Heaven on account of the guilt of either the rulers of that country or the people themselves. For his own part, he believed that the rulers were not free from blame; indeed, he firmly believed that one of the acts which had been recorded on the statute book two sessions ago—the Maynooth College Act—had drawn down the anger of God upon Ireland.

MR. EWART expressed a hope that the subject of education, although not mentioned in the speech, would not be neglected in the session; and declared the wish of the English people that the friendly intercourse with France should not be interrupted.

The address was adopted, and ordered to be presented by such members of the House as belong to the Privy Council.

On Friday, the Queen's reply to the address was presented to the House by LORD MARCUS HILL:—

I received with great satisfaction your loyal and dutiful address. I look with entire confidence to your aiding my endeavours to preserve the blessings of peace abroad, and to promote at home the general welfare and happiness of my people. I feel assured that no exertions will be wanting on your part to meet my anxious wishes to relieve my suffering subjects in Ireland and in some districts of Scotland.

SUSPENSION OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE IMPORTATION OF CORN.

In the House of Commons, on Thursday evening, LORD JOHN RUSSELL moved for a committee of the whole House on the Corn-importation Act; stating that he should follow that motion with another on the Navigation-laws; but he should discuss both the subjects together. The House went into committee at once.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL explained the nature and object of the measures, beginning with the corn-duties, and taking his data from official returns:—

In many parts of the United Kingdom there has been a failure of the oat and rye crops; there was a partial failure, also, of the potato crop in England, a greater extent of failure in Scotland, and in Ireland it amounts to two-thirds or at least one-half of the potato crop. On the other hand, there was last year a very large importation of foreign corn and flour, equal to 4,800,000 quarters; and as the wheat crop was abundant, great part of the foreign corn admitted at the 4s. duty did not come immediately into consumption, nor did the prices in October and November last indicate any considerable apprehension of a rise. In the first week of October the price was 51s.; it steadily increased to 62s. 3d. in the first week of November, and as steadily declined to 59s. in the fourth week. From that time, however, there has been a considerable rise, which is still more striking as compared with the prices at harvest-time,—in August the price of wheat was 47s., in September 49s., on the 16th inst. 73s. 3d. The rise in the price of barley has been still more remarkable; for the first week of January in each of the following years it stood thus,—in 1842, 29s. 7d.; in 1843, 26s. 5d.; in 1844, 32s. 7d.; in 1845, 34s. 2d.; in 1846, 31s. 11d.; in 1847, first week 41s. 3d., second week 46s. 5d., third week 50s.; while for malting-barley the prices have ranged from 66s. to 70s., or even higher. In France, also, the harvest was deficient, and especially the potato crop; but in November the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce made a statement which evinced no serious apprehension of a rise of prices in Paris. The money value of the loss in potatoes in Ireland and Scotland is estimated at £12,000,000; and it is calculated that 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 quarters of wheat will be required to replace the deficiency. Last year, 4,800,000 quarters were imported into this country; but for the future, before next harvest, the prospect of supplies is much more precarious. The countries of Western Europe, instead of furnishing supplies, are competing with us. France, and the countries on the Rhine, have suspended

their laws prohibiting the admission of grain in foreign ships. There are, however, two quarters whence considerable supplies might be expected—Odessa, whence large amounts have been sent to France, and more will be available in the spring; and America, where the harvest has been most abundant—that of Indian corn unprecedented—while but small portion of the harvest of 1846 has yet been exported.

Under such circumstances, it seems proper to remove all restrictions on the importation of corn. It might appear that the 4s. duty was too small to have much effect; but with the present nice balancing of prices its effect may be considerable; with wheat at 63s. in London and 62s. in Havre, the 4s. duty would operate in diverting cargoes from London to Havre. Following the precedent, therefore, of 1756, 1766, 1791, and 1800, he proposed to suspend all duties on foreign corn until the 1st of September next.

The present state of things leads to considerable difficulty with respect to the importation of corn, owing to the very high rate of freights demanded. In some instances these rates have been enhanced by particular circumstances. In the United States, for instance, they have been enhanced by the demand of the American Government for shipping to take guns and stores to the coast of Mexico; but the demand for shipping for the importation of foreign corn has of itself raised the rate of freights. I will state to the House what is the ordinary freight for a quarter of corn from various places to this country, and what is at present paid—

From the Danube, ordinary rate 10s.	present 16s. 6d. to 17s.
Odessa..... 8s.	13s. to 13s. 6d.
The United States..... 5s.	12s. 6d. to 13s.
The Baltic..... 3s. 9d. to 4s. 6d.	5s. to 5s. 6d.
London (to Cork)..... 1s. to 1s. 3d.	3s. to 3s. 6d.

Now, it is obvious that, if we should permit corn to be imported in the ships of all foreign countries, thereby suspending the Navigation-laws, we should, to a certain degree, lower the rates of freight, and likewise allow of some more vessels to be employed in the trade between England and Ireland, from which the shipping is at present diverted by the high rates to be obtained for carrying from foreign ports. At this time of pressure, these impediments ought not to exist; and I, therefore, propose the suspension of the Navigation-laws as regards the importation of grain from foreign countries till the 1st of September next. With respect to the existing law relating to the importation of grain, I do not propose to make any comment either for or against it. All I maintain now is, that, whether that law be politic or impolitic, the present occasion is one when its operation ought to be suspended.

Lord John moved that the Chairman be directed to move the House for leave to bring in a bill to suspend, for a time to be limited, the duties on the importation of corn.

Mr. BANKES seconded the motion. He averred that the Protectionists had all along been in favour of such a measure on such occasions; and he rather blamed Lord John for not having called Parliament together at an earlier day, in order to suspend the Navigation-laws. The advocates of protective duties never stood in the way of relief for Ireland.

Sir HENRY BARRON reiterated complaints that Parliament had not met sooner, and demands of further relief for Ireland.

Mr. GOULBURN gave his entire assent to the proposition, and expected some good from it; and he forbore to interrupt the unanimity by showing how much more effectual the measure would have been had it been adopted earlier.

Mr. EWART called, not for suspension, but for total repeal of the remaining duties on corn.

Sir CHARLES WOOD gave some further explanation as to the reasons for past delay and for the present measure:—

In October the prices of corn had risen to a speculative height; as soon as the determination of the Government not to open the ports was known, prices immediately fell. At the end of October, intelligence came from the United States of very large supplies having come down to the ports ready for shipment, and which were likely to come to this country, and at no great distance of time. Inquiries were made of the merchants of Liverpool and elsewhere, and the Government were told that a considerable number of vessels had gone out, attracted by the high freight from America, and that, in all probability, very large arrivals would take place shortly. Much more recently, the number of vessels loading in America, which had gone out from this country for the purpose of bringing home corn, was very considerable. He had in his hand a letter from Liverpool, dated January the 14th, stating that at that time there were at New York, loading for Great Britain and Ireland, no less than 37 vessels, of a tonnage of 25,000 tons, and at New Orleans 33 vessels, of 19,000 tons; and that, in addition to that, 29 vessels, of 17,000 tons, had sailed from Liverpool for America within the preceding week, and it was extremely probable that the cargoes with which they would return would be corn. That would be seventy vessels, at least, which in all probability would bring home corn from America. There did not seem, therefore, to be any likelihood that large supplies would not be brought into this country, or that, so far as corn could be brought thence before the navigation closed, there would be any want of supplies. But the expectations held out to the Government by the merchants had been to a considerable extent disappointed; corn had not come to the extent anticipated, though the imports had considerably increased within the last two or three weeks, as was shown by a return just laid on the table [hear, hear]. At the present moment, however, we were in what might be called the dead part of the year; the spring trade would begin before long, when there would be a much greater demand for freight, and therefore it was become much more necessary to relax these navigation-laws, which might prevent the importation of corn in the vessels of any nation at a time when there would be a greater competition for shipping [hear]. Besides, the navigation was closed for the winter in the interior of America and on the Baltic, but these and other parts—as, for instance, Odessa and Galatz—would soon be open, and corn would be brought down to the seaboard, for the shipment of which to this country facilities might be afforded [hear, hear]. He was very confident that the time was approaching when this country would receive large importations of corn. Up to the present time they had not received any Indian corn of the crop of 1846, which was described as the largest crop ever known in the United States. He believed that nearly the whole disposable crop of 1846 had been brought to this country; but it was stated that the crop of 1846 would not be available for exportation till December or January. The supply from New Orleans would arrive before many weeks had elapsed; but that which was expected from the northern parts of the United States could not be brought to the seaboard till the internal navigation was opened. These con-

siderations showed the great advantages which might be anticipated from the adoption, at this time, of the measure now proposed, and which could not have been gained by any earlier suspension of the navigation-laws and of the corn-law.

His noble friend had stated that the quantity of corn, consisting of wheat, Indian corn, &c., which had been imported by private merchants into this country in the last seven months of last year was 3,728,000 quarters. The average consumption for that period was about 802,000 quarters; and if that were deducted from the quantity brought in, and assuming that whatever quantity there was of potatoes could serve only for two months and a half, the quantity actually imported into the country would be sufficient for the support of 8,500,000 of the people for four months and a half. The quantity actually imported was more than could have been expected, more than any one seemed to have imagined. Sir Charles entered into a very long and detailed statement to show that Government had done the utmost to meet the wants of Ireland. They had not imported corn; but they had bought it when imported, following but not leading the market. In that way they had bought all the Indian corn that was to be had. As the western coast of Ireland was not accessible during the winter, they had established depôts there, and to supply them had been constant purchasers of corn, always following but never leading the markets. If the Government had gone into those markets as a large purchaser of corn, it must have enhanced the price in England, and might have had to maintain a population which was as yet supported by its own resources. The Government bought Indian corn, barley, and rice in the way which he had just mentioned; and the whole amount of its purchases did not exceed 240,000 quarters of one grain or another. The quantity of corn exported from Ireland to this country was less this year than usual. It averaged, during the last three years, 3,000,000 quarters; but during the last year it did not exceed 1,700,000 quarters. The quantity of foreign corn imported into Ireland, during the same period, was 500,000 quarters; but that was not the whole amount of provisions imported during the same time into Ireland. After pointing out the deficiency of mill-power which existed in that country, and showing that the Government had employed the Admiralty mills at Portsmouth, Plymouth, and Deptford, in grinding meal for it, he proceeded to give an account of the depôts which they had established in Ireland for the sale of meal. Last year there were only nine depôts—now there were twenty-six. It was true that those depôts had not been recently opened; and the reason was, that when you had to support a people through a given time, you must leave that people to its own resources as long as possible, in order that you may support them better when the pressure of the emergency arrives. Some of the depôts, however, had been opened in August, but Government discovered, as soon as they were opened, that all private enterprise ceased. He then censured the unwise language which some gentlemen had used respecting forestallers and regraters, contending that it was necessary that there should be retail dealers in corn, and that we ought to encourage the establishment of them in Ireland, in order that they might supply the labouring population with the food which they were compelled to buy. He then explained, with great length of detail, the steps which the Government had taken to supply the wants of the aged and infirm poor out of the workhouse. The Government had given and would give liberally to them; but it must be assisted by the co-operation of the gentry and people of Ireland. Without that co-operation Ministers could do but little; but with it they hoped to carry the people of Ireland in safety through their present emergency.

Mr. HUME urged the Government to sweep from the statute-book for ever the dregs of an odious system; and objected that the removal of the Navigation-laws ought to be accompanied by removal of the Timber-duties, as the cost of construction prevents our ships from competing with foreign vessels. Lord JOHN RUSSELL replied, that, after mature consideration, he had resolved to suspend rather than abrogate the Corn-duties and Navigation-laws; because the temporary measure could be easily carried, while the other would provoke opposition; and the removal of the Timber-duties would not only provoke opposition, but would require the substitution of another tax for the sake of the revenue.

Another question was raised by Mr. BRIGHT; who obtained the explanation, that a foreign vessel carrying a mixed cargo would only be able to land corn under the suspension of the Navigation-laws—not, for instance, cotton. Lord JOHN RUSSELL explained, that a more sweeping measure would have provoked serious opposition; which Mr. THOMAS BARING confirmed.

Lord GEORGE BENTINCK said that he should resist any attempt to repeal the Navigation-laws. He attacked the existing Corn-law, for not having given the people cheap bread, or any benefit to the consumer. Look to what had happened yesterday in the city of London, on the announcement of its being the intention of the Government to repeal this duty. He held in his hand that day's Cotton Circular of one of the most eminent brokers in the City, Messrs. Osborne and Son, and the information it gave spoke volumes. It is stated, that the effect on that day's market was to depress barley and malt, in which scarcely a transaction had taken place; that bonded corn had advanced in value to an extent which would be equal to the reduction in the duty; that there had been a fair business in all kinds of corn, at full previous averages; and that floating cargoes of wheat near at hand rose 2s. to 3s. a quarter. Now, this was indisputable evidence that every fraction of the remitted duty would go into the coffers of those very corn-merchants and factors—those engrossers, and regraters, and forestallers, of whom they already had so much reason to complain. He asserted, that under the old law there would now have been in bond 3,000,000 quarters of corn, on which Government might have seized; paying the 10s. duty with one hand, and with the other supplying food to the people of Ireland to keep down prices. He recommended to Lord John Russell the example of Nadir Shah; of whom he told a story:—

On an occasion when a great pestilence and a great famine

raged throughout Persia—when the men, women, and children, destroyed by the plague and by hunger, were dying in the streets and by the road-side—complaints were made to the Shah that the rich corn-merchants refused to sell; that, though the granaries were full, and the people starving, they still held back food under the belief that the *maximum* of prices had not yet arrived. On this being told to him, the Shah answered and said, "These men have done well; they have provided food for my people; they shall be rewarded; make proclamation that 10,000 tomanas shall be the reward of that good man who shall produce the largest stock of food." The merchants were delighted; claimants for the bounty on benevolence poured in; but an Armenian was the best man—he had stored the most corn. For, though he lived in the midst of death, he had kept the seal on the doors of his granary, and had still said, "Prices will yet be higher." The Shah smiled on the Armenian, and ordered his Vizier to go to his treasury and to bring the promised reward; and, when the gold was brought, he said to the Armenian, "Sit down, my friend, and count the pieces." The merchant obeyed, and, having reckoned the gold, made answer, "They are all right, O King." But it was told in the same history, that, thereupon, the Shah frowned upon the Armenian, and turning to his Minister, or chief executioner, he said, "Lay hands upon the wretch; take him forth; tie the 10,000 tomanas to his feet, and thus hang him to the loftiest gate of the highest mosque in Bokhara" [laughter]. In this way did the Shah avenge men on those who trafficked on the decrees of God [cheers]; and this was the course, in a milder form, which had he (Lord G. Bentinck) been one of her Majesty's Government [laughter], he would have adopted towards those forestallers and regraters, the political economists of Ireland, who had let the people starve that their profits might increase [cheers and laughter]. He would have had recourse to the lenient expedient, by forwarding large supplies, of competing with those dealers in corn, in order that the people might have had the opportunity of purchasing provisions at something nearer to a just price than at this moment, in order that they might be saved from the necessity of paying 9s. a bushel for the corn which cost the importer only 4s. [hear, hear.]

Mr. WILLIAM BROWN answered this with two more eastern stories:—

During the reign of the Emperor Julian, Antioch happened to be in the same position as, unfortunately, Ireland was this year, and that then the policy now recommended by the noble lord was adopted by the Emperor. Large contributions were levied from the public purse, private interests were interfered with, the Government became a dealer, and it was found that the Imperial Government had attempted much more than an Emperor could possibly manage. Instead of making things better, the meddling made them much worse, merchants finding that, if they bought corn to feed the Antiochans, they could sell it only at the Government price, which was much below the price in the surrounding country; and the consequence was, that they could not resist the profits to be made elsewhere. The farmers shunned the city for the same reason; the Emperor kept to the price; and so the inhabitants were starved through his kindness [cheers and laughter].

There was another eastern story, quite as good as that of the noble lord, and with a better moral; it was in reference to what had occurred in Bombay some years ago. There was there a stock of rice for fifteen months in store, when it was learned that Guzerat, a neighbouring province, was in a state of starvation. The Council at Bombay deliberated if they should take those steps now urged on the Ministry by the noble lord,—if they should keep all the corn at home, or open the markets and relieve the distresses of the starving Hindoos. After much consideration, the policy of the noble lord was decided to be objectionable. They concurred that it was best for Bombay to have free-trade, and to let the corn go wherever it was wanted, resting satisfied that they were, as was our island, in the highway of nations, that every ship sailing to India would look to see if there was a good market at Bombay, and that, in this manner, they would not want a sufficient supply at all times [cheers]. And, of course, it was soon known along the coast what was going on. Not a day passed without a ship dropping her anchor at Bombay, and, if the port was found full, they reserved their cargoes of grain for those who were in want [cheers].

Several of the speeches that followed, though not ineffective as a whole, may be briefly described. Sir C. NAPIER descanted on the operation of the navigation-laws in making our ships bad, and sending our seamen into foreign service. Mr. ROEBUCK exposed some of Lord George Bentinck's inconsistencies; and recommended the Premier, like the Princess in the "Arabian Nights" who gained the singing tree, the dancing water, and the talking bird, by closing her ears with cotton against the fatal fascinations of the enchanted vituperation, to pursue his course regardless of the abuse with which he was assailed. Mr. D'ISRAELI delivered an essay, difficult to define as to its purpose, unless it was meant to show that he knew better than to revive laws against regraters. Mr. B. ESCOTT called to mind that Mr. Goulburn, who complained of delay in opening the ports, was the very person who prevented Sir R. Peel from adopting that measure. And Lord JOHN RUSSELL expressed some surprise at Lord George Bentinck's backwardness in commercial knowledge, and at his language about regraters: he had before seemed to be making some progress by the help of his commercial acquaintances.

Eventually Lord John's motion was carried *nemine dissente*.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL next moved that the Chairman be directed to move for leave to bring in a bill to allow, for a time to be limited, the importation of corn from any country in foreign ships. This also was carried without contradiction or comment.

Bills founded on both resolutions were brought in, and read a first time.

On Friday, the Corn Importation Bill went through all its stages. In reply to Mr. Stafford O'Brien, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated that *all* the duties on corn would be suspended, even the one shilling duty; but entries would still be made of all the corn admitted.

SUSPENSION OF THE NAVIGATION LAWS.

On Friday, the Navigation Bill, having been read a second time, and committed—

Mr. MITCHELL moved that the words "on and after the 1st of September," should be omitted, and that the Act should extend to all vessels which should be proved to have embarked with their cargo on or before the 1st of August.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL said, that the great object of Government in proposing the present bill was to obtain

an early supply of corn. He thought if any alteration were to be made, it ought to be made an earlier day; he could not support the amendment of the hon. member for Bridport.

A debate ensued, in which Dr. Bowring, Sir W. Clay, Mr. Foster, Sir Howard Douglas, Mr. W. Brown, Mr. Baring, Mr. Williams, Mr. Liddell, and Mr. T. S. Duncombe took part.

Sir CHARLES WOOD explained that the ports of the Black Sea would be open by the end of March: it is expected that the high prices will draw the corn from the interior long before the usual season—May. The voyage to this country occupies two months, and large importations may be expected in June and July.

The amendment was negatived by 188 to 50, and the bill passed through all its stages.

In the House of Lords, on Saturday evening.

Lord STANLEY expressed his regret that the proposed bill for allowing the use of sugar and molasses in distilleries was to be a permanent and not a temporary measure, and suggested that the matter should be referred to a select committee.

After some remarks from Lords LANSLOWNE and BROUGHAM, the bills for suspending the corn and navigation laws were read a first time.

In the House of Lords, on Monday, the standing orders were suspended, in order to permit the Corn Importation Suspension Act and the Navigation-laws Suspension Act to be carried through their several stages without delay. The Earl of CLARENDON shortly moved the second reading of these bills, which were supported by Lord BROUGHAM and the Earl of MOUNT-CASHEL. The motion was agreed to, and the bills were read a second and third time, and passed.

MODIFICATION OF THE SUGAR AND RUM DUTIES.

The House then went into Committee on the Customs and Excise Duties Act; and Sir CHARLES WOOD brought forward the Government proposition for the modification of the Sugar and Rum Duties; explaining it in a speech, and formally moving it in the shape of resolutions. He based the measure not only on the necessity for relief at home, but also on the ground of justice to the Sugar Colonies after the removal of protection. Last year, the colonists asked for relief; and he promised to propose a measure early this session. The question was mixed up with considerations of revenue. Guided by the calculations of Sir Robert Peel, Sir Charles had anticipated a deficiency at the end of the year of £300,000 or £400,000. The revenue, however, has hitherto exceeded anticipations: the Customs-duties have increased in every branch, especially on corn and sugar; the Excise also increased, even in Ireland. But last quarter the Excise fell off in Ireland; within the last few days a number of mills have stopped work in the manufacturing districts of England and Scotland; there have been bad harvests; and an adverse reaction must be expected. Concession, therefore, must be tempered by prudence. At present making grain is excessively high in price—84s. or even 88s. a quarter; and beer has been raised a penny the pot. One hundred and eighty pounds of sugar, equivalent to a quarter of malt, would cost 75s. 6d. Were sugar admitted for brewing, it would probably not so much displace malt as prevent a further rise of price, while increasing the production and lowering the price of beer. There is great difficulty in admitting molasses for use in breweries: to make the duty equivalent to that on malt, it would have to be raised from 5s. 3d. to 8s. or 9s. 8d.; and a large door would be opened to fraud. Molasses, therefore, would not be admitted; but the prohibition on the use of sugar would be removed. In distilleries sugar can already be used, the obstacle is the amount of duty. It will be admitted to use in distilleries charged only with a duty equivalent to the sums paid on spirit as malt-duty and spirit-duty. The change will be managed in this way. There is no wish among distillers to use sugar and grain in the same manufactures—they will be left separate; a duty equivalent to the malt and spirit-duty will be charged on the sugar *spirit*; and the manufacturer will be allowed to deduct the amount of the import-duty on the sugar consumed. The relative effects of the excise-duties on spirits, and import-duties on rum, are very obscure and difficult to define; at a guess, they are equivalent to about 10d. a gallon against colonial rum. As a compromise between the claim for relief and the difficulty of sparing revenue, the differential duty on rum would be reduced from 12s. to 6d.

Lord GEORGE BENTINCK did not oppose the measure; but, with Mr. BANKES, urged Ministers to make it temporary. Mr. SMITH O'BRIEN was disappointed, because it would not diminish the use of grain in distilleries. Mr. CALLAGHAN complained that it would knock up the distilleries of Ireland. Mr. GOULBURN cordially approved. Mr. HUME objected to the exclusion of molasses without intelligible reasons.

In the course of some further conversation, it was arranged between Lord JOHN RUSSELL and Lord GEORGE BENTINCK, that the discussion as to permanent or temporary duration should be waived for the present, and taken upon the bill to be introduced.

A characteristic scene between Mr. ESCOTT, Lord GEORGE BENTINCK, and Mr. FERRAND, then took place—

Mr. ESCOTT said that the noble lord the member for Lynn had declared himself to be a friend of the noble lord at the head of the Government to a certain time, and only until then. He was the friend and ally of the latter noble lord until the Irish question was settled (so ran the bond), and until all its difficulties were arranged [laughter]. When that would be, he (Mr. Escott) did not pretend to foretell [laughter]. But when that day had arrived, the House was to understand that the two noble lords were no longer to be in that amicable intercourse which spectators now every night were delighted to witness [laughter]. A friend near him (Mr. Escott) reminded him that there was now an Anti-malt-tax League. If there was, he had never been invited to join it [ironical cheers from the Opposition]. Whatever it was, the farmers were to be sold again, as, after using the topic all the recess, the noble lord now declined pressing the Government on the subject of the malt-tax [hear, hear].

Lord G. BENTINCK: The friendship existing between the noble lord at the head of the Government and myself has been of many years' duration, and I trust it may continue for many longer [loud cheers from both sides of the House]. For my noble friend's private, personal, and political honour

I have the greatest respect [cheers]—and for his consistency also [loud opposition cheers]. While I think my noble friend will give me credit for entering into no sham battle, I shall, whenever we differ in political principle, meet him in strong opposition without any interruption of our private friendship [hear, hear]. The hon. and learned member for Winchester has said that I am at the head of an anti-malt-tax league. I shall enter into no discussion on that subject, but I can assure the hon. and learned gentleman he may rest in the most perfect security that whatever league I may belong to, unless I intend that that league should be betrayed, I shall never invite him to become a member [loud opposition cheers].

Mr. FERRAND said that the hon. and learned member for Winchester was the last man in the House who should talk of selling the farmer. At his last election the hon. and learned gentleman marched into Winchester at the head of a procession of farmers, and promised to fight and die, if necessary, under the banner of protection [a laugh]. The hon. and learned member subsequently made a great speech in its favour, and he (Mr. Ferrand) assisted him to correct it previous to circulation among his constituents [loud laughter]. The noble and learned member came into Olivier's shop, in Pall-mall, and said to him (Mr. Ferrand), "How did you like my speech last night?" He replied, "It is a great piece of oratory [roars of laughter]—but I don't know how the Winchester farmers will manage your long Latin quotations" [continued laughter]. The speech was circulated at the hon. and learned member's expense. Since then the hon. and learned member had sold the farmers; and in his (Mr. Ferrand's) opinion, any man who could so freely sell his constituents, would make very little difficulty about selling himself [Opposition cheers].

Mr. ESCOTT: With respect to a certain speech to which allusion had been made, he (Mr. Escott) wished to have it expressly understood he had never, for the purposes of that speech, or for any other purpose, ever called in the critical assistance of the honourable member; and if he ever should feel it necessary to correct a speech, the honourable member would not be the critic to whom he would apply [laughter].

The resolutions were then affirmed; the House resumed; and a bill was ordered to be brought in.

THE LAW OF SETTLEMENT AND THE POOR-LAW COMMISSION.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL then brought forward his motion for a Select Committee on the Law of Settlement, with a general statement of his views respecting the renewal of the Poor-law Commission and its future modification. He also stated that he would incorporate with his own motion one of which Mr. BANKES had given notice, for inquiry into the Removal Act of last session. With regard to the law of settlement itself, he should not make a single observation: the subject is surrounded with difficulties, and the House could not well come to a conclusion until persons who have had experience of the operation of the law in different parts of the country should be brought together, and should supply the means of probing all the difficulties of that important inquiry. With respect to the resolutions adopted by the Committee on the Andover Union, Government would not make any proposition or take any course founded upon those resolutions, unless some member should bring forward a special motion on the subject. If any member should bring the matter before the House, Lord John should have no difficulty in stating his opinion on the evidence. But Ministers rather looked to the general question as to what ought to be their course in reference to a renewal of the Poor-law Commission. The powers of the Commission would expire at the end of the session next ensuing; and to guard against accidents, provision ought to be made in that behalf as soon as possible. Under any system, he thought that central control would be necessary to check local abuses. The Poor-law Commission, however, has not worked satisfactorily; it has been made the subject of continual inquiry and animadversion. The Commissioners, he was certain, had exercised their powers to the best of their judgment, and with an earnest desire to serve the poor: he thought their general administration had been founded on sound principles; but he did not think that in every instance Parliament thought so, or that the discretion of the Commissioners had always been wisely exercised. He imputed the dissatisfaction of Parliament partly to the divided control; the Secretary of State, who defends the Commissioners in Parliament, not always having the means of judging their conduct on all the grounds which they have before them. It would be better if the great control should be vested in a body more immediately connected with the House. He proposed, therefore, in renewing the commission, that at the head of it should be a "president," who should be capable of having a seat in that House; and that the Board should have two secretaries, one of whom also should be able to have a seat in the House. The president should have placed with him certain persons holding Ministerial offices, but not interfering in the ordinary administration of the poor-law any more than the Secretary of State interferes in the ordinary concerns of the President of the Board of Control. The existing "general rules" should remain in force until finally revised by competent authority—that is, by the new board; but new general rules should not take effect until sanctioned by the Queen in Council. The Irish commission will be separated from the English commission; it will have its president, secretary, and under-secretary; its general rules will be sanctioned by the Lord Lieutenant in Council. This measure has been embodied in a bill, which has not yet been finally matured.

Lord John's statement was received with general acquiescence. Mr. BANKES assented to the proposal respecting his motion. Mr. HUME withdrew a resolution of which he had given notice, on the subject of the poor-law administration, leaving the whole question in the hands of Government. Other members expressed approval. Mr. ETWALL, however, notified that he should call for an opinion of the House on the report of the Andover Union Committee; and Mr. FERRAND complained that the Commissioners should be let off without undergoing punishment.

Eventually, Lord John's motion for a select committee on the law of settlement was affirmed, the committee being instructed to inquire, in the first instance, into the operation of the Poor-removal Act.

MEASURES FOR THE RELIEF OF IRELAND.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL, on Monday night, in the House

of Commons, made a statement of the Ministerial measures for the relief of Ireland. In considering the state of that country at present, he used the guarded language of the report of the Commissioners of Inquiry on Poor Laws in Ireland, and left the House to infer therefrom how severely the calamity of a total failure of the potato crop must be felt there. Having read several extracts from the first and third report of that Commission, to show how wretched the usual state of Ireland was, he asked how those, who were on the brink of famine in ordinary times, could bear up against it under a calamity which was almost without parallel in modern times, which acted upon eight millions of people, and which reminded him of a famine of the 13th acting upon the population of the 19th century?

He then mentioned the course which had been adopted to meet this disaster from its commencement to the present time. He described the proceedings under the presentment system and the Labour-rate Act. He showed that, under those enactments, the employment of so many men in unproductive labour had become full of danger, but that the danger would have been much greater had the Government confounded that species of labour with independent labour, and so injured the great and important class to which all the labourers generally belonged. He also called attention to the fact that no public body could sufficiently superintend the employment of so large a number of persons as were now engaged under the Board of Works. The staff itself was liable to abuse, for it consisted of not less than 11,587 persons. The number of persons employed last week was 480,000, and it was probably at present half a million. No doubt there was a great use in employing these persons, and in furnishing them with labour. Taking each of these persons as providing for four others, that employment found food for 2,000,000 of souls. The expense of this employment was enormous. During the present month alone it had amounted to £700,000 or £800,000. It was impossible to view it without seeing that it must be productive of great concomitant evils. One of them had been that the labour was inefficiently performed. To remedy that evil, task-work had been substituted; but from task-work another evil had sprung up, and it was this—that many of the labourers obtained by it greater wages than were ever before gained in Ireland, wages varying from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 10d. a day. The consequence was, that farmers occupying from twenty to sixty acres had obtained tickets from the relief committees, had put their sons on the relief works, had thus received the money which was intended only for the destitute, and, what was worse, had prevented those who were really destitute from receiving it.

It therefore appeared desirable to the Government to form in certain districts—say the electoral districts—relief committees, which should be empowered to receive subscriptions, levy rates, and receive donations from the Government; that, out of the sums thus raised, they should purchase food, establish soup kitchens, and deliver rations from this purchased food to the famishing inhabitants; and that, in furnishing that food, they should not look to any particular test of destitution, but should set the labouring men who applied to them to work, either on their own grounds or on those of the neighbouring farmers, so as to earn for themselves some small wages by their own industry. After the Government in England had considered this scheme, they had communicated it to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, to the head of the Board of Works, and to the head of the commissariat in that country. Those functionaries had received it favourably, and the Government was, therefore, determined by preparatory measures in Ireland, and by a bill to be introduced into Parliament, to carry it into effect; and he was sure that the House would be glad to hear that Sir John Burgoyne had consented to superintend its operation for the next three months. In proposing this measure, however, with a view of affording, if possible, a more effectual mode of giving a relief of food to those who wanted it, and of setting free labourers from the public works for the ordinary avocations of agriculture, we must take care that this substitution should be made as easily as possible by not dismissing large bodies of labourers at once, and that when it was made, no further presentments should be offered and no further employment given on the public works.

With respect to the money which had already been expended, and which was now to be expended, on public works in Ireland, a claim had been advanced that the whole of it should not be made a burden upon that country. Considering how extensive the calamity was, he thought that it would only be right that the whole burden should not fall on Ireland. He should, therefore, propose on a future day that, in each succeeding year, as each instalment was paid, one-half should be remitted, keeping up the whole debt until one-half of it was paid, and then throwing the other half of it on the public. The money already issued for these works had been issued out of the balances now in the Exchequer charged on the Consolidated Fund, and he was happy to say that there had been no issue of Exchequer bills to meet that expenditure. It had, of course, placed a burden on the finances of the empire, and he should, therefore, be disabled from bringing forward some propositions for the reduction of duties on soap, sugar, tea, &c., which he was inclined to have made, and which it was hardly fair that the people of Great Britain should not receive.

With respect to the advances made to proprietors who had expressed a desire to make improvement on their estates, under the authority of the Lord-Lieutenant's order, Government thought that the terms contained in the Treasury minute of the 1st of last December should be extended to them, and that the time for the repayment of the advances which they had received should be extended from ten to twenty-two years, as in the Drainage Act of last session. Having thus stated what the Government intended to propose to meet the evil of the present year, he proceeded to observe, that there was another proposal, of which, though of doubtful tendency, he was inclined to try the experiment.

He proposed to advance £50,000, to be repaid on or before the 31st of December, 1847, to the proprietors of Ireland, to furnish seed for sowing their lands. He did not intend to advance any part of it to the small cottier-tenants, as it might not be used for the purposes for which it was intended; but he thought that if the advance were made to the proprietors of the soil, the measure might be safe and useful.

He then proceeded to another part of his subject—namely, that which related, not to the present, but to the permanent benefit of Ireland. Although we had been diverted by extraordinary circumstances from general principles, it was expedient that we should return to them as soon as possible. The interference of Government might be given in three ways, which ought to be kept separate and distinct. With the support of Parliament, it might give assistance by loan to individuals anxious to improve their property. It might, also, give assistance, by grant of public money, in the erection of works of evident public utility. It might, also, enact that relief should be given by law to the infirm and destitute. The first measure which he proposed to bring forward, founded on the first of these three modes of interference, was based on the Drainage Act of last session, and on the terms given to the public in the Treasury minute of December last. It was proposed that, where an improvement of an estate was proposed to be made, either by drainage or the reclamation of waste lands, certain advances should be made from the public funds. The usual rate of interest on advances made by the Treasury was five per cent.; by the Drainage Act of last session it was fixed at three and a half per cent.; and he now proposed to extend the terms of the Drainage Act to the improvements which he had just mentioned. He also promised with regard to more general works to consolidate and amend the Drainage Acts now on the statute book. By the present Drainage Acts the proprietors of a district might meet—they might propose to obtain a loan for the improvement of a district by drainage—and, if the plan proposed was approved by the majority, the loan could be made and the drainage effected. In that case the drainage was undertaken by the Board of Works. Now, this act was only applicable to the drainage of streams and rivers. He proposed to apply it to other objects, and therefore a consolidation and amendment of the acts was necessary. He also proposed, on the same principle on which other great works were proposed by the State, to undertake by the State the reclamation of waste lands in Ireland. The waste lands of Ireland had been calculated by Sir R. Kane at 4,600,000 acres; Government proposed to devote a million to the purpose of reclaiming them. It further proposed that the waste land, if the proprietor were inclined to dispose of it, should be purchased by the public; but if the proprietor refused to improve it, as well as to sell it, then a compulsory power was to be lodged in the Commissioners of Woods and Forests to take and cultivate it. Such land, however, must be below the annual value of 2s. 6d. an acre. Land of this nature was to be improved by the Woods and Forests only so far as roads and bridges went; the reclamation of the land was not to be undertaken by that department. When reclaimed, it was to be divided into small lots, say of twenty-five acres each, and might either be sold outright at once, or let to a tenant for a certain number of years, to be sold at the end of that time. He expected that great advantage would arise from this plan, for a great many persons who were now driven into despair and crime owing to the enormous demand now existing for land, would be placed on these reclaimed lands, and would thus be able to obtain a competent living from their labour.

He now came to the class of measures founded on the third mode of interference. And first, of the relief to the destitute. It would be remembered that when the Poor Law Commission of Inquiry made its report, it advised that all persons of a certain class should be relieved, and in that class it included all persons infirm, aged, and permanently disabled. The Government thought it safer to have workhouses erected in Ireland, to allow relief to the destitute able-bodied as well as to the aged and infirm, and to confine it to the workhouse. It was now its opinion, formed on a general view of Ireland, that the Poor-law should be more extensive than it is. He therefore proposed to bring in a bill for the more effectual relief of the destitute poor of Ireland, which would enact that the guardians of the poor be required to give relief, either in or out of the workhouse, to the aged and infirm, and to all who were permanently disabled. This would be the means, first, of enabling the board of guardians to use the workhouse as a test of destitution; and, secondly, of enabling them to afford relief to infirm and aged persons at their own homes, with greater satisfaction to the feelings of the people, and with a hope of producing a better working of the law. He also proposed that, when the workhouses were full, the Poor-law Commissioners should have power to enable boards of guardians to give relief out of the house to the able-bodied poor. This power must be used with caution. The workhouses ought to be kept as a test of destitution; but there were cases where they could not afford accommodation to all who crowded to their doors, and, in such cases, aid must be given out of doors, not in money, but in food. Relieving officers also would be appointed, and, in cases of urgent necessity, where there was danger of starvation, must be empowered to take the parties into the workhouses, or to relieve them out of the workhouses until the next meeting of the board of guardians, when relief could be afforded according to the general rules. Such were the measures which he proposed to introduce immediately. There were other measures, however, still in contemplation of the Government, of which one was a measure for facilitating the sale of encumbered estates. He also proposed to introduce a bill by which long leasehold tenures, renewable for ever, should be converted into freeholds. The various tenures of land in Ireland were a great evil; and it was a matter worthy of Parliament to consider how far those tenures could be simplified, and the landlord be connected with the tenant and the labourer, as in England. It was owing to this want of connexion between them in Ireland that it was almost impossible to discover who was the party on whom, in

the urgent distress of the country, the duties of property became obligatory. Under the second head of public works came fisheries; but he had no definite proposition to submit to Parliament on that subject at present. In the course of last autumn a large supply of fish had been caught on the west coast of Ireland, but, from want of salt, it had been thrown on the land for manure, instead of being cured for the food of man. He trusted that before the end of the session he should be prepared with a bill on that subject. There was another subject—emigration—on which he intended to make no proposition, though extravagant expectations, which never could be realized, were entertained respecting it in Ireland. Pauper families could not be removed so as to produce any sensible effect on the population either by public or by private means. This point was to be considered. If you were greatly to assist emigration, and to convey a million of men beyond the ocean, what funds and means are there in the countries to which you remove them? He then described the measures which he had adopted when he held the seals of the Colonial Department, to promote emigration by taking charge of the emigrant at the port of his disembarkation, and by conveying him thence to the field of employment. He showed that there had been, in consequence, a large increase in the amount of emigration during the years 1845 and 1846, and affirmed that, under such circumstances, he should be afraid of giving a stimulus to further emigration. There were, however, some difficulties in the way of emigration contained in the Passenger Act which he intended to remove, but he could give no hope of an extensive scheme of emigration.

He knew not whether the calculation of Sir R. Kane was a sober one; but that eminent individual maintained that there were such extensive agricultural resources—to say nothing of mineral resources—in Ireland, that it could maintain seventeen millions of inhabitants without difficulty. He (Lord J. Russell) was himself of opinion that if a good system of agriculture were introduced into Ireland—if anything like permanent security were afforded for the investment of capital—if the proprietors would improve their lands—and if their tenants and labourers would co-operate with them, the present population of Ireland was not excessive. He then alluded to certain countries which had been formerly in a condition as wretched as Ireland, and which were now flourishing in order, peace, and civilization. He entered upon that retrospect because there were some inclined to despair of Ireland. He saw no reason, unconnected with laws which had ceased to exist, and with unhappy circumstances to which he would not advert, why Ireland should not rise at a future day to as great prosperity.

After an eloquent peroration, Lord JOHN RUSSELL moved for leave to bring in two bills—one to render valid certain acts which had been done under the authority of the Lord-Lieutenant, as communicated in the letter of Mr. Labouchere; and the other a bill for the improvement of private estates, in accordance to the Treasury minute of the 1st of December last, which was already known to the House. The noble Lord then concluded, amid loud and universal cheering, a speech which took more than two hours and a half in the delivery.

After Lord JOHN RUSSELL had concluded, several members offered their opinions on the proposed measure, and asked for further information. The balance of opinion was very much in favour of the scheme, and amongst the most forward in expressing their approbation were Sir R. INGLIS, Mr. STAFFORD O'BRIEN, Mr. HUME, and Lord GEORGE BENTINCK. The latter expressed his admiration at the tone and temper of the speech of his noble friend, although he would not then express a decided opinion as to the measures themselves. He doubted whether the £50,000 proposed to be given for seed would be nearly sufficient. He wished that advances had been made for the construction of railways. He intended to propose some measure on the subject himself, not in opposition to, but as auxiliary to, the measures of the Government. Mr. ROEBUCK highly approved of the tone of the speech of the noble lord, but he deprecated the making advances of public money to Irish landlords for the reclamation of waste lands, for it never would be repaid.

In answer to a question from Sir H. W. BARRON, Lord JOHN RUSSELL said that the guardians would be able to impose additional rates for the relief committees, and who would also have portions of the subscriptions raised in this country, and of the grants of the Government.

In answer to a question of Mr. SMITH O'BRIEN, the noble lord stated that the Government were not prepared, as a general rule, to say that railroads should be assisted, but the subject was still under consideration; and that a measure as to tenant compensation would be prepared, but it would not be brought forward at present.

The two bills were then introduced.

In the House of Lords, on the same evening, the state of Ireland was made the subject of a long debate, on a motion of the Marquis of Lansdowne for the production of papers, which he prefaced with a long speech.

Lord STANLEY agreed that it was impossible to discuss the Ministerial scheme until a sufficient time had elapsed for the consideration of its various parts, but could not refrain from taunting the Government with the ill-success of the Labour-rate Act, and with their too close adherence to the maxims of political economy.

Lord Brougham, the Earl of Devon, Earl Fitzwilliam, Lord Mountcashel, Earl Grey, Lord Montague, and the Marquis of Clanricarde took part in the debate. The motion was then agreed to, and at one o'clock their lordships adjourned.

MISCELLANEOUS.

NEW WRITS were issued on Wednesday for Middlesex, and on Friday for Chester in the room of Lord R. Grosvenor, who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.—On Thursday, in reply to Mr. Stafford O'Brien, Mr. MILNER GIBSON stated that he had a measure to provide for the collection of agricultural statistics.

CRACOW.—Mr. HUME has given notice that on Thurs-

day week he will call the attention of the House to the violation of the treaty of Vienna by the seizure of Cracow, with the view of proposing the suspension of the payment of £100,000, which this country had been paying to the Emperor of Russia ever since the treaty of Vienna was entered into, on condition of his fulfilling his obligations.

MEXICAN LETTERS OF MARQUE.—In reply to Mr. Roebuck, on Thursday, Lord PALMERSTON made a statement respecting Mexican letters of marque. Government had no knowledge of any agent in this country authorized on the part of the Mexican Government to issue letters of marque or acts of naturalization. He only knew that Mr. Barnes, a gun-maker on Tower-hill, had advertised his wares by announcing that a copy of the original Mexican decree was lying in his shop. In a verbal communication on the subject with the American Minister, however, Lord Palmerston had given an assurance that the position of the British Government, which was one of strict and impartial neutrality, would be maintained; and the question how far they could interfere to restrain British subjects had been referred to the Law-officers. It is perfectly true that some time ago notice was issued by the Government of the United States that they would treat as pirates any foreigners found serving on board Mexican privateers; and Lord Palmerston had considered it his duty to instruct the British representative at Washington to express the expectation that this threat would not be carried into execution upon any British subject. The Americans themselves admit the principle that the subjects of one country may, by a short process, be naturalized in another. It was a universal practice, during the last war, to employ the subjects of other nations.

DR. BOWRING is to bring on a motion for a reform of the House of Keys, Isle of Man, on the 28th inst.

NAVIGATION-LAWS.—Mr. RICARDO will to-morrow (Thursday) move for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the operation of the navigation-laws [cheers].

THE SPANISH MARRIAGES.—On Friday, Lord LANSDOWNE in the one House and Viscount PALMERSTON in the other, laid upon the table the correspondence relating to the marriages of the Queen and the Infanta of Spain.

REPRESENTATION OF MIDDLESEX.—Lord Robert Grosvenor has consented to stand for the representation of Middlesex. It was intended to get up an opposition to Lord Robert; but the idea is now abandoned, and he will walk the course. At a numerous meeting of electors of Middlesex, held on Thursday at the Sussex-hotel, Bouverie-street, Henry Hoare, Esq., the banker, in the chair, it was unanimously resolved to address Lord Robert Grosvenor as candidate for the representation of the county, for the purpose of ascertaining his lordship's opinion on the question of the endowment of the Roman priesthood. In accordance with this resolution, a letter, signed by the chairman, has been forwarded to his lordship, a copy of which appeared in the *Post* of Saturday. A good example, however, has been set; and it is the more indispensable that Lord Robert Grosvenor should be made acquainted with the equally strong feeling of the Protestant Dissenting electors upon the subject, and that their opposition is based upon broader grounds. We are happy to be able to state, that at a meeting of the Committee of Deputies held on Friday, a deputation was appointed to wait upon the noble candidate, consisting of freeholders, (two of them members of his lordship's committee,) for the purpose of ascertaining his sentiments upon the subjects of the endowment of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, Government Education, Ecclesiastical Courts, and Grants of public money for ecclesiastical purposes.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DEPUTIES, &c.—On Wednesday, the annual meeting of the deputies of the three denominations of Protestant Dissenters was held at the King's-head, Poultry, John Remington Mills, Esq., in the chair. The report of the Committee, detailing the proceedings of the past year, having been read by Mr. Hull Terrell, the Secretary, it was adopted by the meeting without discussion, and ordered to be printed. The other business was chiefly of a routine character, consisting of thanks to the chairman, deputy-chairman, and treasurer, for their services during the year, and of electing the new committee for 1847, by ballot.

REPRESENTATION OF WESTMINSTER.—A meeting of the Westminster Reform Society was held on Thursday evening, to consider the question of bringing forward another candidate to succeed Mr. Leader. Mr. Charles Lushington and Mr. George Thompson were both proposed; but, on a vote being taken, there appeared to be a very considerable majority in favour of Mr. Lushington; who is therefore to be the candidate with Sir De Lacy Evans. Mr. Lushington has since intimated his intention of accepting the invitation.

REPRESENTATION OF NORWICH.—On Friday, the 15th instant, a meeting of the Liberal members of the Town Council was held at the Castle Inn, for the further consideration of this subject. A resolution was adopted to the following effect:—"That Mr. Peto would be a suitable candidate for the representation of this city, and that the gentlemen who had convened this meeting should call another, for the purpose of hearing an exposition of Mr. Peto's principles, as soon as they deemed it expedient to do so." We believe this resolution was adopted unanimously, and we are assured that not one word was said to indicate the slightest doubt, on the part of any present, as to the qualifications of Mr. Peto to represent this city; but a general feeling was expressed that it would be desirable not to commence any election movements till it became necessary to do so, and, therefore, that Mr. Peto, for the present, should not be invited to meet the electors. —*Norfolk News*.

FOUR LINES OF RAIL ON THE LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN.—The *Railway Chronicle* says that this company has finally determined to lay down four lines of rail without waiting for an Act of Parliament.

LECTURE ON SLAVERY.—On Tuesday evening, the third of a series of lectures, at the request of the Free Church Anti-slavery Society, was delivered in the Waterloo-rooms, Edinburgh, by the Rev. Dr. Young, of Perth. The subject of lecture was—"Is slavery forbidden by the word of God?" The rev. gentleman first briefly detailed the enormous evils of slavery as they exist in the United States of America, ably vindicated the Scriptures of truth from the charge that they gave a sanction to slavery—conclusively exposed the sophistry and futility of the pleas which slaveholders advance in defence of their system—justified the general conduct of the American abolitionists, particularly that of William Lloyd Garrison—and concluded by showing the urgent duty which devolved on the people of this country to speak out on this subject, and to remonstrate with the American slaveholders on the inconsistent and unscriptural position which they occupy. This was one of the best lectures on the subject of slavery which has yet been delivered in this city. It was plain, sententious, and decided; replete with sound sense, convincing arguments, and irresistible appeals. At its close, a gentleman rose in the body of the room, and proposed that it should be immediately published. This proposal was seconded by John Wigham, Esq., and most heartily responded to by the audience. On the motion of Councillor Cruikshanks, a cordial expression of thanks was tendered to the lecturer for his able advocacy of the cause of the slave, and the meeting then broke up.—*Scotsman.*

THE GOVERNMENT AND STATE EDUCATION.—Some of the general outlines of the ministerial education scheme have been permitted to transpire. The principle at present acted upon is to be preserved;—that of grants, proportioned to the voluntary efforts of the Church and the different religious bodies, and leaving intact the freedom and independence of the education administered by each. But conditions are to be imposed, determining within certain limits the mode and channel of the application of the moneys. The grants are to be much enlarged, and the assistance of the state afforded on a most comprehensive scale. Exhibitions at the normal training schools,—the foundation of new normal schools, on the same principles as the present,—the establishment of permanent stipends, or stipendiary offices, for schoolmasters,—are among the new methods which, it is said, will be proposed as modes of application of the state grants. The whole scheme is, of course, but imperfectly shadowed out by these few details; but we understand that the plan has been settled throughout, in concurrence with the authorities of the church, and that it is such as not to be open to any material objection.—*The Guardian* (an organ of the High Church party.) *The Morning Herald* contains a similar statement. The London correspondent of the *Hants Independent* says:—"It is now said that the Education question is not likely to be brought on during the present session, although the ministerial plan is nearly ripe for presentation to Parliament."

A JUDGE'S SUMMING UP.—"OFF, OFF, AND AWAY."—Mr. Sergeant Adams, whose singularities and eccentricities occasionally produce much merriment in the Court over which he presides, heard a case at the Middlesex Sessions, in which a lad stole a piece of pudding from an eating-house-keeper's in Clerkenwell. The evidence having been gone through, the learned judge thus summed up:—"Gentlemen of the jury, you have heard this case—off goes the pudding—off goes the boy—off goes the woman; she captures him bolting down a court, and here you have the boy, pudding, and woman before you; gentlemen, consider your verdict." At the close of this lucid and satisfactory address, the jury turned to each other in their box, and were soon in deep consultation. The impatient judge hastily exclaimed, "Good God, gentlemen, what are you deliberating about; the case is clear enough." This settled the poor jurymen at once, and turning round in alarm, they found the prisoner guilty. His love of pudding got him a month's imprisonment, with the pleasant prospect of a whipping by the gaolers at the end of the first fortnight.

PROCESSION OF THE HOST IN KENTISH-TOWN.—In the *Tablet* of last week, we read the following announcement in capital letters:—"The Blessed Sacrament carried in the streets for the first time since the Reformation. Progress of the Rev. Hardinge Ivers's mission at Kentish-town." The fact thus paraded, is stated in the following terms; the signature of Miles Gerald Keon being affixed to the communication:—"It is only the other day that—for the first time, perhaps, in England since the Reformation—the Holy Eucharist was carried through the streets of a London suburb, with the lights blazing, and in full procession, to visit the death-bed of a faithful departing. The sensation created among the Protestants in the neighbourhood is indescribable. With recollected looks, the women bowed and the men took off their hats, as they beheld, for the first time, with what awful and profound veneration Holy Church surrounds the Adorable Sacrament." [Such processions are illegal in the eye of the law; Parliament having last session refused to repeal the enactments which forbid them.]

CAUTION TO PERSONS CROSSING LINES OF RAILWAY.—A frightful railway accident occurred at the Whittlesford station, at Yarmouth, on Tuesday evening. Two sisters were at the place seeing a friend off to Saffron Walden. On leaving the platform both sisters made an attempt to cross over to the opposite platform, where a gate was situated through which they had to pass on their return home, the road crossing the line on a level. Unfortunately, the express train from London made its appearance at the usual speed of thirty to thirty-five miles an hour, and before the elder sister could retrace her steps or get out of the way, she was caught by the engine, and met with an instantaneous death—her head being literally severed from her body. The younger sister was only just saved by the efforts of a porter. The deceased was about twenty-four years of age, and the daughter of a respectable yeoman, named Collman, of Duckworth. The verdict of the coroner's jury was "Accidental death."

POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, January 27th.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

In the House of Lords, last night, the Royal assent was given, by commission, to the Corn Importation Bill and the Navigation Bill.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Fox MAULE obtained leave to bring in a bill for the abolition of the poundage of five per cent. now paid by Chelsea pensioners out of their retired allowances, which at present yields from £40,000 to £50,000 to the revenue.

TEN-HOURS BILL.—Mr. FIELDEN then moved for leave to bring in a bill to limit the hours of labour of young persons and females in factories to ten hours a day. Sir G. GREY did not intend to oppose the motion for the introduction of the bill, as it was in substance the same as that of last year. He hoped that all discussion on it would be postponed until the second reading. He wished, however, to guard himself against being supposed to acquiesce in the measure because he assented to its introduction. Mr. TRELAUNY opposed the motion, as such a measure would lead not only to a reduction of wages in factories, but in other descriptions of labour. Several members, including Sir R. PEEL, who said he entertained the same objections to the bill as he had previously done, having advised that the first reading be allowed to pass without opposition, Mr. TRELAUNY withdrew his motion. Lord JOHN RUSSELL said that, on the second reading of the bill, he would state his opinions. Leave was then given to bring in the bill. Subsequently it was brought in, read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday fortnight.

The select committee on the Law of Settlement was appointed; and, after some further unimportant business, the House adjourned to Thursday.

THE POPE A PREACHER.—Letters from Rome, of the 14th inst., state that the Pope preached a sermon on the preceding day, in the church of St. Andrea della Valle, which had produced the deepest emotion on the auditory. It was the first time, during the last 300 years, that a Sovereign Pontiff had ascended the pulpit to address the people.

THE ARCHDUKE JOSEPH ANTHONY JOHN of Austria, Palatine, Governor, and Captain-General of Hungary, whose death has been frequently announced, is understood to have really died on the 7th instant, at Ofen, in the seventieth year of his age. His son, the Archduke Stephan, has been appointed Governor *ad interim*.

GENERAL FLORES had arrived in Paris on his way to Madrid. He had unequivocally relinquished all idea of proceeding with his projected expedition.

POLISH FRONTIERS, JAN. 10.—The number of Russian troops in the kingdom of Poland is increasing in a remarkable manner, by the addition of troops from the interior of the kingdom, especially since the roads have again become passable.

DISTRESS IN GERMANY.—The reports from different parts of Germany relative to the distress occasioned by the present enormous prices of food are very disastrous, and the trade of the interior, especially in the manufacturing districts, is suffering severely. Extreme misery also prevails in Prussia. Distress has driven the poor to the commission of robberies, in order to gain the shelter of a prison.

A subscription has been opened at Hamburg for the relief of the suffering Irish and Scotch.

Letters have been received from Tahiti, dated Aug. 6th. Everything was tranquil; the natives have not made any attempts to obstruct the works for the fortifications in the valley of Punavia.—*Paris Paper.*

IRELAND.—From the sister island we have accounts of the increase of destitution in the counties of Longford, Galway, Leitrim, and Kerry, while in Cork the scenes of extreme misery appear to have been transferred from Skibbereen to Bantry. Meanwhile, the grain markets, generally speaking, continue to show a downward tendency; and Government securities experienced a heavy fall.—Mr. O'Connell made his last appearance for the present, at Conciliation hall, on Monday, but the proceedings were unimportant. The rent has dwindled down to £15 16s. 11d. Mr. O'Connell was to leave for London on Tuesday.

THE PREVAILING SCARCITY.—We (*Times*) are informed that the following document has received the approbation, if not of the highest personage of the realm, at least of a large number of the highest ranks in our nobility. A similar voluntary undertaking was, as many of our readers are aware, very generally adopted, under the patronage of Royalty, during the dearth which prevailed at the beginning of the present century:—

We, the undersigned, deeply impressed with the distress which prevails among a great number of our fellow-countrymen in Great Britain and Ireland, from the want of necessary subsistence, and observing that the prices of food are rising, think it our duty to pledge ourselves to reduce in our families, as far as may be practicable, the consumption of bread and flour; and we invite the co-operation of all those who may concur with us in our estimate of the present emergency.

STEPNEY MEETING SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.—A public meeting of the teachers and friends of these schools was held in the school-rooms on Thursday evening last, for the purpose of liquidating the debt on the institution, and also of promoting an increased interest in its welfare. Notwithstanding the extreme inclemency of the weather, 300 persons sat down to tea. Mr. John Kennedy, A.M., the newly-appointed minister of the place, presided, and in his opening speech forcibly dwelt on the importance of the Sabbath-school as the ally of the church, and the right arm of its strength. Addresses on subjects which had been previously announced were then delivered. The first on, "the increasing responsibility of the friends of Sunday-school

instruction, consequent upon the spread of general education," was given by Mr. R. Ainslie, the Secretary of the Congregational Education Committee, who related several affecting incidents illustrative of the connexion between ignorance and crime, but at the same time urged the danger, to Sunday-schools especially, of suffering the interference of Government. Dr. Hewlett followed, on "the relation which should subsist between the church and the school," pointing out the various ways by which all Christians might, in some way or other, assist in the education of the young. The last subject was, "the qualifications requisite for a successful teacher," upon which Mr. Charles Stovel, Baptist minister, delivered an address marked by great point, force, and fervour. Singing and prayer then closed the evening's services, which were of a very interesting and impressive character.

SINGULAR AND FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.—An accident attended with fatal consequences occurred on Monday afternoon, at Southall station, to the four o'clock down train and the express train due at Paddington at half-past four o'clock. It appears that the tire, or band of iron and steel which surrounds the ring of the right driving wheel, and which is about an inch and a half in thickness, twenty-three feet in circumference, and five inches in breadth—of one of the express engine-wheels suddenly gave way in passing Southall, and, breaking into pieces, was hurled with inconceivable velocity in different directions. It threw the engine with the four-o'clock train (which was approaching at the time) off the line, and entered a second-class carriage attached. Tearing its way through the roof of the carriage, the momentum adding to its destructiveness, it fell upon two men, named Henry Bishop and Henry Halt, and instantaneously killed them. Halt's head was laid completely open from the temple downwards, and his brains scattered about the carriage—a most painful and revolting sight. Bishop's injuries appear to have been received at the back of his head, which has been completely smashed in. The bodies are at present lying in a portion of the stables adjoining the Red Lion inn, at Southall, where they await the coroner's inquest. Not the least singular part of this melancholy event is, that the deceased men were returning from an appeal held the same day before the Assistant-judge at the Middlesex sessions, and in which Halt was acquitted from a charge of cruelty to animals, brought against him for carrying two calves from Croydon to Smithfield-market with their heads hanging from the tailboard of the cart. A brother of Halt's, who sat by his side, was slightly injured by the fall of the piece of iron, and a Mrs. Ibbotson, wife of a paper-maker at Pogle-mills, near Colnbrook, was, also, much shaken and hurt. She now lies at the Red Lion inn, but her injuries are not so serious as to create alarm for her recovery. Several other passengers in the down train were sufferers by the accident, but their injuries were slight.

THE NATIONAL CLUB, which was first formed after the passing of the Maynooth Endowment Bill as a rallying point for the Protestant party, have taken the houses, No. 2 and 3, Old Palace-yard, between the House of Commons and the House of Lords, which will open as a club-house in the course of a few days.

SUICIDE OF THE HON. H. E. ADDINGTON.—On Wednesday last the Hon. Henry Estcourt Addington, son of Lord Sidmouth, committed suicide at his father's residence at Albury, near Guildford, by suspending himself from the bedstead by a black silk handkerchief. It appears that the unfortunate young man (whose age is only twenty-four years) has, for some time past, been labouring under mental aberration, his malady being considered to be the result of a fever caught in the island of Corfu while on military service. A verdict of insanity has been returned by a jury.

HORRIBLE BARBARITIES AT AN AFRICAN FUNERAL.—We have been politely favoured with the following by a gentleman who gives his name and address:—"In a communication which I received from the Rev. J. Clarke, one of the Baptist missionaries at Bimbia, Western Africa, he states the following awful fact, occasioned by a most horrid custom, that of the immolation of a number of hapless victims on the death of a royal personage, still prevailing in those parts. The letter is dated October 26, 1846. He writes—'At Calabar there has been a fearful sacrifice of more than 100 persons, for a son of the late king. The poor creature danced Egbo all the day, drank mimby, or palm wine, in large quantities, and died the same night. It is supposed he was poisoned. This may be the case, or it may not; we cannot tell. The aged mother cried out in African frenzy, that she had lost her last child, and now had none to whom to leave her property, and plenty of slaves must, therefore, be sacrificed. Those at market, and all who heard in time, ran into the bush, and will remain there until the sacrifices cease, that is, as to their personal liabilities to their doom. This will be rather more than one year. The sacrifice took place! Three holes were dug in a house. The corpse was put into the first, with a number of young women. Into the second, the slaves were put; and, into the third, the slaughtered Creoles, or town-born people. The proportion, as stated to us, for these holes, was thirty female slaves, forty male slaves, and twenty-nine Creoles. Much was done by the Rev. Mr. Waddell, Mr. Edgerly, and, also, by Captain Millbourne, of the Dove, to try to persuade King Eyamba to prevent the sacrifice, but it could not be done.'"—*Liverpool Mercury.*

THE MONSTER CHIMNEY at Wigan, 400 feet high, fell down on Thursday with a loud crash. No one was injured. This is the third chimney which has fallen on the premises of Mr. Dobbs.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour.
English	3220	3680	3020			
Scotch			310			brls.
Irish			3500			16270
Foreign		2800				

The market is dull.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.
 For Eight Lines and under 5s. 0d.
 For every additional Two Lines 6d.
 Half a Column. . . £1 | Column. £2
 * All communications to the Editor should be addressed
 to the office, 3, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A poor Congregational minister of South Wales will be exceedingly obliged to any subscriber to the *Nonconformist* who will furnish him with the paper, weekly, after it is done with. The address may be obtained at the Office, 3, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street.

A lady's donation to the British Anti-state-church Association, by Mr. H. Hughes, of Carnarvon, £2.

"A Constant Subscriber." We are unable to answer him, but the information may be obtained at Mr. Vincent's address, Fellenburg-house, Church-street, Stoke Newington.

We must defer a detailed reply to other communications.

Received for the Anti-state-church Association from J. S., Birmingham, 10s.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27, 1847.

SUMMARY.

PARLIAMENT assembled yesterday week in reality "for the despatch of business." We do not recollect any previous occasion when the Legislature commenced the work of the session with so great a disposition to *do* rather than to *talk*. But as we are not sanguine enough to expect that we shall have many more such occasions to commend the expedition of our representatives—until the close of the session—we take the opportunity while it offers. Within one short week the bills for suspending, until the 1st of September, all duties on foreign corn of every description, and the Navigation-laws, so far as the importation of corn is concerned, have passed through all their stages in both Houses, and are by this time the law of the land. The discussion upon these measures was somewhat significant. The Protectionist members were the foremost to blame Ministers for their neglect in not opening the ports on their own authority three months before, and gave their cordial support to the present proposition. Lord John Russell must have felt the keenness of this rebuke to his official timidity, and, indeed, made but a lame excuse for allowing his notions of etiquette to stand in the way of the welfare of the country. In the discussion on the Navigation-laws, the same feeling was exhibited by Ministers, in opposition to the reasonable proposition of Mr. Mitchell, that vessels coming from any ports of the Black Sea with corn should be admitted, even if they did not arrive before the 1st of September, provided they had sailed on or before the 1st of August. Lord John Russell seems determined that he will no longer answer to the amusing description Sidney Smith has given of his fool-hardy intrepidity. Elsewhere we have mentioned a few facts, with the view of showing that the suspension of the restrictions on corn and navigation are even now likely to be of essential service to the country. This is confirmed by a statement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on Monday night, that 500,000 quarters of corn would be at once released from bond by the opening of the ports, and by the not less gratifying circumstance, that under the influence of the Ministerial measures, immense supplies have suddenly found their way into the Irish provincial markets, and have beaten down prices to the extent of several shillings a quarter.

On the third measure of Ministers—the resolution to permit the use of sugar in breweries and distilleries—there was not the same amiable unanimity of opinion. Lord George Bentinck in the one House, and Lord Stanley in the other House, announced their willingness to allow of the passing of a temporary measure for this object, but refused their consent to its permanency. Ministers, for very sufficient reasons—not the least of which is the right of our colonies to the free import of produce—declined to accede to their demands. The latter, therefore, are to take a debate, division, and defeat on the bill, at some future stage; but it is not at all likely that they will materially postpone its speedy adoption.

The debates in both Houses in reply to the speech from the throne calls for little remark. The chief feature of the debate was the disposition evinced by men of all parties to co-operate with Government in adopting such measures as might tend to relieve the present scarcity, and rescue Ireland from her multiplied difficulties. The Protectionists who have assumed to themselves the chief post of opposition were very ostentatious in their patronage of the Whig ministry; and their leader, Lord George Bentinck, took the earliest opportunity of showing his utter unfitness to occupy the post to which he so ardently aspires. On one topic only was there any general dissent from the Ministerial policy. Scarcely anybody unconnected with the Government, approved of their conduct in relation to the Montpensier marriage, whilst the general tone of discussion on our relations with foreign countries augurs well for the good sense of our legislators, and the rapid progress of those principles which are the best safeguard of international peace and friendship.

On Friday night, Lord John Russell announced that it was the intention of Government to refer the Law of Settlement to a select committee, and to do away with the Poor-law Commission. The powers of the "three Kings of Somerset House" expire at the

end of the session next ensuing; and it is the intention of Ministers to propose that they shall be replaced by a body more immediately connected with Government, and under the control of the House of Commons. The new Poor-law Board will, in fact, constitute another department of the State, responsible to Parliament. At its head is to be placed a "president," who is capable of having a seat in the House. The Board is to consist of persons holding Ministerial appointments; and, of the two secretaries, one is to be a member of Parliament. The bill embodying these and other alterations in the management of the Poor-law is not yet matured, and is to be introduced at a later period of the session. The country will rejoice to learn that the present Poor-law Commission is to be abolished, and that the odious principle of irresponsible centralization has received a timely check. Few will sympathize with the Premier's attempted vindication of the official character and conduct of the Board. We know not how the noble lord could reconcile his eulogium upon these delinquent gentlemen with the distinct and serious charges brought against them by the Andover Union Committee; and when the debate on this subject comes on, we shall be curious to see how far the statements that are then laid before the House will warrant him in the conclusion, "that the Commissioners have exercised their powers to the best of their judgment, and with an earnest desire to serve the poor of this country."

On Monday night, in a speech of two hours and a half duration, the Premier explained the plans of Government for relieving the present distress and improving the social condition of Ireland. As a specimen of impressive eloquence and skilful arrangement, evincing a thorough mastery of his subject, and an earnest appreciation of the difficulties of his subject, we cannot speak too highly in its praise. But here our eulogium must cease. We fear the country will be deeply disappointed with the measures he proposes for the permanent improvement of the country. The proposals for temporary relief are briefly as follows:—The present ruinous system of public works is to be abandoned, and replaced by a plan, cautiously introduced, for giving relief in food, through local committees, without exacting work in return. The funds are to be supplied by subscriptions, local rates, and grants from Government. The peasantry are to be allowed to work upon their own land or for farmers, so that there may be due preparation for the next harvest. No estimate was given of the expense of this new plan, but no doubt it will be enormous. Lord Brougham supposes it will be from £10,000,000 to £15,000,000. Of the vast sums already expended upon public works, estimated at £2,000,000, which was advanced as a loan to the Irish landlords, one-half is to be remitted. The chief remaining measure proposed for the relief of present distress is a loan of £50,000 to the landlords, payable within the year, to enable them to purchase seed for their tenants.

The first of the propositions for the permanent redemption of the country is a new series of loans to the Irish landlords, for the improvement of their own estates, to be repaid with three and a half per cent. interest, by very easy instalments, in the course of twenty-two years. The only condition of the loan is to be, that the borrowers are to use it for their own benefit, in improving their estates, and especially in reclaiming their waste lands. The Government will undertake the reclamation of such waste lands as no private owner, even with the temptation of a loan from the State, can be tempted to improve. The owners of these wastes, when they have remained after a certain time of less annual value than 2s. 6d. per acre, shall be compelled to sell them to the Government, who will reclaim them and sell them in small lots. Measure for facilitating the sale of encumbered estates, for extending the Poor-laws so as to allow of out-door relief, and for establishing fisheries, comprise the principal remaining features of the scheme. The Premier's propositions met with general and cordial approval. Lord George Bentinck, Sir R. Inglis, and the Irish members expressed themselves highly delighted with them. As a general discussion of the various features of the whole measure is to be taken on Monday next, we shall postpone any lengthened examination of it until our next number.

"SHADOWS AVAUNT!"

SOME years back we chanced to number among our acquaintances a man of bilious temperament grievously persecuted by all sorts of horrible fancies. His candle was no sooner put out at night, and his head buried under his bed-clothes, than spectral illusions haunted his imagination. Imps would leap on to his pillow, and peer wistfully between the sheets into his closed eyes. Monsters, seemingly all eyes and mouth, would grin at him between the half-drawn curtains. Shapes, more uncouth than any which heraldry has drawn, would bestride his knees, or squat cross-legged upon his shoulders, or peep out of the watch-pocket at his head, and take malicious pleasure in assuming ghastly expressions. The poor fellow would crouch lower and lower into his bed, as if to hide himself from these dire enemies to his repose—but always to no purpose. The more he shrank from them, the more hideously obtrusive they became. At last he was wont, in sheer desperation, to sit up in his bed, set his teeth, clench his fists, open his eyes, and scowl determined defiance at the whole crew, whereupon—of course—they vanished.

We earnestly recommend to Lord John Russell and

his colleagues, the adoption of some analogous plan, to rid themselves of illusions alike unsubstantial and pernicious. In laying out their policy, and in the preparation of their measures for Parliament, they suffer themselves to be pestered into childish apprehensions by fancies as purely spectral as any which worry the poor hypochondriac. For three months they have refused, in alleviation of national scarcity, to open the ports by an order in Council, scared by a compact which never had an existence but in their own bewildered imagination. Even now, in proposing actual measures of relaxation, they are driven into restrictive details and mischievous provisos by the ghost of a precedent. And all the world is aware to what inconveniences they have exposed themselves, and what practical anomalies they have tacitly sanctioned, rather than cross the path of "the spirit of the constitution." They often announce theoretical principles of great worth and comprehensiveness—but the moment they are asked to embody them in legislative acts, compacts, precedents, and constitutional figments menace their best intentions, and clip away their largest plans. These are the ghosts of the past, which now walk the world and frighten Whigs and old women—shadows, which no one believes in, out of the precincts of office—hobgoblins which the determined gaze of common sense and common justice would put to instant flight. Lord John, unfortunately, is one of the last men who can be expected to exclaim—

"Shadows avaunt! Richard's himself again."

The leading members of the Government, if they retain any ingenuousness, must have felt themselves humbled by the opening tone of the present session. Imminent peril had wound up their courage to a sufficiently high pitch, that, with the air of men conscious of staking office upon the performance of their duty, they recommend the suspension of the Corn-laws, a modified relaxation of the Navigation-laws, and permission to use sugar in brewing and distillation. They had been solicited to do this again and again on their own responsibility, but had pleaded, as an insuperable obstacle to their acquiescence, virtual compacts and constitutional usages. These, doubtless, they expected to grumble out in Parliament, together with a reluctant assent to Ministerial proposals, a recognition, also, of Ministerial fidelity. What, then, must have been their surprise, and how keenly must they have felt rebuked, when all parties agreed in ignoring the existence of the compact, and in chiding the devotion to official forms which had delayed, until it was almost too late, the opening of the ports! After severe struggles with their own apprehension, Ministers march as self-consecrated victims into the streets, and find—the lion is not there—never has been—never will be.

We wish the lesson may not be lost upon them—and that necessity may scourge them into the habit of looking chimeras in the face. Assuredly, there has not, of late years, occurred a crisis which more imperiously demanded, or which made more practically feasible, a bold disregard of the conventionalisms of statesmanship. The most energetic, and, in every sense which would not involve injustice, the most unscrupulous policy, will be found to be, not merely the most effective, but the safest, and the most easily carried. The emergency is such as to render the searching character of any government proposals, and their obvious adaptation to meet the case, additional guarantee for their being quietly passed. Society yearns for something in the fashion of Cromwellian decision of purpose—and like contempt is visited upon those who stickle, in this hour of danger, for official forms, as fell to the lot of the damsel who, when warned that the house was on fire, refused to leave her chamber with her hair in paper, and therefore perished in the flames.

Excuses were very charitably suggested by Sir R. Peel on behalf of the Ministry, on the ground that appearances in October were not so threatening as they have been since. We discern nothing in the suggestion, save the courtesy of the individual by whom it was made. To our judgment, the simple fact, that famine was a possible contingency, ought to have outweighed the weightiest objections of party etiquette. We hope we may be mistaken in our inferences—but we conclude that the men whose slavish adherence to forms has exasperated a calamity which was foreseen *might* happen, and which in the lapse of a few months *has* happened, are not the men to conduct the vessel of the State through the gale that hovers over-head. Be their integrity of motive ever so unimpeachable, their past conduct does but little to commend the reach of their wisdom, or the firmness of their nerves. Men haunted by shadows are not the fitting men for these times. The timidity which held back temporary appliances until they had lost half their virtue, induces in us the suspicion that permanent measures will not exhibit a wise and timely courage. To grapple successfully with the present crisis, we want the common sense and manly honesty which will look without blinking at the whole host of conventionalism which have troubled the minds of statesmen, and frown them into their original nothingness.

NADIR SHAH FOR PRIME MINISTER.

SURELY the Protectionists are given over into the hands of their enemies. What more could be desired of an adversary, than—that he should shut his eyes and rush into the jaws of the most barbarous folly which ignorant antiquity could furnish?

What would be said of a ship's crew, (pardon of the blue-jacketed branch of the human race for such a

supposition), who on falling short of water and provisions, should propose to hang up the purser for not continuing to issue as before? How powerful would the argument be held, against the unfitness of the multitude for universal suffrage, or for any suffrage or voice in determining what was good for ships or nations?

This, then, is what we are to contend with. This is the wisdom in high places, which is to keep on foot every failing abuse, and force every man of us to sit down contented with his share of the darkness of our ancestors. We start with Nadir Shah.

Look now at the thing more in detail; and for the moment forget authorities. There is a famine, a scarcity of provision, afloat or ashore. If it is afloat, there is a captain, and a purser, with in all probability no interest in making the case worse than it is, and to whom the dullest sea-boy, in all known cases, voluntarily leaves the office of calculating what sacrifices will be most likely to accomplish the end desired. It will probably never be calculated with exactness to a day; for the captain would not be held meritorious who should come into port without a day's provision on board, and the rudest tar that ever chewed tobacco would hardly praise him for the performance of such a feat. In the case of a famine ashore, there is much that is parallel, though there are some differences. There is no organization like the captain, to command definitively how much every man and boy shall eat. Neither is there any possibility of directing that all shall eat alike; or if Nadir Shah thinks to the contrary, let him show the way. Let him propose to give the members of the House of Lords a daily order for a pint of meal, and to the Commons a ticket for a quart of soup from the Imperial soup-kitchen. Alas, there is no way of settling these matters, but by the dictates of common sense which is political economy. Prices, wages, and numbers, must settle the affair among themselves, and any human interference, to be effectual, must act upon some or other of these wires. It may be abundantly distressing to the nerves of Nadir Shah; but hunger and its allaying, wait neither on King nor Kaiser, except through the unyielding laws which have decreed that two and two shall make four, and the part be always greater than the whole.

There being, then, no possibility of putting all men alike on short allowance, we of the shore must be content with the operations of commerce. And here the question arises,—Is it politic, statesmanlike, wise, prudent, consistent with common sense, to hang up the dealers in food who store up what is in their possession, in expectation that the necessity will be greater than it is, and consequently the prices rise? Conceive of Lord George Bentinck going forth in the plenitude of his political economy, and followed either in Ireland or England by a competent quantity of hard-handed constituents, and then and there opening the warehouses and giving the contents to present consumption, with such portions of the infliction he has invoked upon the trader, as should be deemed expedient. What has he done, but what would be done by the mad and mutinous crew,—it is doubtful whether history gives any practical example,—who should force open the purser's store-room, and hang the purser as proposed by the Protectionist wisdom in parliament? When this is eaten, what is to be done next? It may be more certain in the water-borne case, that no more will be to be had; but does the representative of Nadir Shah pretend to say, that he has calculated the prospects, and knows better than anybody else that more is coming in? The dealers in the article concerned, with the fullest means of information before them, have determined at the hazard of their own gains, that it is most probable there will be greater want hereafter than at present. And thereupon stands up a man pretending to leadership and having some idea of the possibility that others may follow him, and declares that he has gathered at Newmarket, and learned like an Augur from study of the muscles of quadrupeds, that it is advisable to eat up now and hang the dealers, and leave what shall be eaten or hanged hereafter to what may be the consequence.

There must be a sore place somewhere. There must be something rootedly wrong in the system which sends or approximates such counsellors to station and command. If a friend of commerce and free industry presumes to think of finding his way to the national palaver, all sorts of opposition are thrown in his road, and it is well if he is not trampled underfoot as a meddler; while the other class of men, in scriptural phrase "have babes at their desire," and walk abroad as if they were the natural rulers of the roast. These things cannot be always so. The strong current of minds everywhere towards an effectual representation in the Commons' House, will not be slackened by this exhibition of Nadir Shah in parliament.

THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING AN IRISH LANDLORD.

We shall reserve a detailed examination of the grand ministerial scheme for the redemption of Ireland until a future occasion, contenting ourselves with a few desultory remarks suggested by Lord John Russell's announcement.

Our first reflection (and, doubtless, many will participate in it) in reading the Premier's speech was the marvellous good luck of the Irish landowner. Talk of the repeal of the union after this! We venture to predict that O'Connell himself will be delighted with the closest intimacy with this country for all time to come. He must, surely, now confess that the advan-

tages are not all on our side. "Ireland for the Irish," has been his demand. But the Imperial Government gives him more. They promise that England shall feed the destitute, and re-establish the landlord. The leading feature of the ministerial scheme for the professed improvement of the social condition of the country is a succession of boons to the Irish landowner. The famine will prove to him the happiest possible event—an accumulation of good fortune. How will the absentee proprietor, spending his income amid the gaieties and dissipation of Paris and Naples, careless of the fearful condition of his countrymen, rejoice to learn that England not only exempts him from the taxation borne by the industrious labourer of England, but proposes to feed his tenantry and lend him money to an almost unlimited extent to buy seed, to drain his land, and to reclaim his uncultivated acres! Insolvent landlords, who reside at home, will take fresh heart, and pay off their mortgages. Their policy has at length triumphed. They staked their all in an unscrupulous opposition to Government, and an aggravation of the distress of their country, and have triumphed. They recklessly squandered the public money at their baronial sessions, determined, if possible, never to repay it. Government endeavoured, but in vain, to check the evil by providing for re-productive employment, but annexing conditions which would have secured repayment of the public advances. The landlords clamoured, and continued to waste fresh sums upon the roads. With few exceptions, they left Government to deal, almost single-handed, with the awful destitution of the people. And have they not got their reward? What says the Marquis of Lansdowne, in the House of Lords, to all this? "They (the Irish landlords) had conducted themselves in a manner which reflected the highest honour upon them." Government follows up this eulogium by bringing forward a series of measures, the grand feature of which is the advantages it confers upon the proprietors of land! Such are the inducements held out to landlord insubordination and improvidence!

The cause of this strange anomaly is not far to seek. Lord John Russell dared not propose such measures as justice to the people of the two countries, and justice even to the Irish landlords themselves, required. Can we expect the House of Commons or the House of Peers to legislate against their own class? Do they pay any large proportion of the vast sums which are to prop up the Irish landlords, and provide food for their starving tenantry? Are their incomes mulcted to swell Irish rent-rolls? Do they suffer much by the postponement of all measures of relief to the people of this country, such as a repeal of the window duties, and a reduction of the taxes on paper, tea, and sugar? Would a legislature, representing not property alone, but all the multiplied interests of the country, have made the past improvidence of the Irish landlords the stepping-stone to the favour of the State—have gone to the pockets of the Liverpool shopkeeper, overwhelmed with the support of 22,000 Irish immigrants, to draw therefrom the hard-earned fruit of his industry, to prop up the insolvent landowner, and reward the absentee proprietor? We think not. It is contrary to the nature of things that it should be so. We trust Lord John Russell's Irish measures will impress upon the public the familiar truth, that a Parliament composed of only one class will stand by their order to the last.

THE SUPPLY OF FOOD.

THE most important topic at the present moment, whether in connexion with the state of Ireland or the country at large, is the supply of food. Its influence on the material interests of the country can scarcely be exaggerated. Can we, now that every restriction upon the importation of foreign corn of every description, and upon navigation, has been suspended, hope to receive sufficient supplies to prevent a rise in present prices, and to dissipate fears of future scarcity? A few considerations, based upon the most trustworthy evidence which we can obtain, may perhaps help us in coming to a conclusion.

There appears to be little doubt that the stock of home-grown wheat in the hands of farmers is very large—larger, for the most part, than is usually held at this time of the year.* This, we believe, is especially the case in Lincolnshire and the neighbouring wheat-growing counties. The continued rise in prices for nearly two months has naturally induced growers to supply the market as scantily as possible, and increased the value of grain. It happens luckily enough for agriculturists, that their self-styled champion, Lord George Bentinck, is not Prime Minister, or who knows but that in his severe equity he would deal with them as he proposes to do with "forestallers and regraters"? The suspension of the corn duties will, no doubt, induce the farmers to throw larger supplies upon the market, and produce a re-action upon prices. This has already occurred to some extent. At Mark-lane, on Monday, although prices did not recede, no advance was obtained; and supplies were much more abundant.

With regard to the prospect of supplies from abroad, information is more attainable. On this subject the Chancellor of the Exchequer furnished some valuable information on Thursday night. He emphatically declared—and no doubt he had good ground for his statement—that "he was very confident that the time was approaching when this country would receive large importations of corn." Within a short time, he

* We are glad to find that Government intend introducing a measure for collecting agricultural statistics—a want never more urgently required than at the present time.

calculates that nearly seventy vessels, of a tonnage of 44,000 tons, will bring cargoes of corn from America to this country. As regards Indian corn, he said:—"Up to the present time they had not received any Indian corn of the crop of 1846, which was described as the largest crop ever known in the United States. He believed that nearly the whole disposable crop of 1846 had been brought to this country; but it was stated, that the crop of 1846 would not be available for exportation till December or January. The supply from New Orleans would arrive before many weeks had elapsed; but that which was expected from the northern parts of the United States could not be brought to the seaboard till the internal navigation was opened."

Whatever may be said of the past impolicy of Ministers in refusing to open the ports, there cannot be a doubt that the removal of all restrictions now will essentially augment our supplies, and mitigate the evil of our present position, in a greater degree than is generally expected. Nor are we entirely dependent on America. Notwithstanding the large demands from France, there are still immense stocks of corn at Odessa. A correspondent of the *Courier de Lyons* says that on the 12th of December there were 1,800,000 quarters of wheat ready for exportation in the different ports of the Sea of Azoff. And now that the Navigation-laws are suspended, we may hope to receive a fair share of these immense supplies by June or July next.

We think, therefore, we are justified in coming to the conclusion that there is not good ground for apprehending any great scarcity in the supply of food before the next harvest, and that prices are now nearly as high as they are likely to be. It is estimated that Ireland will require something like a million quarters of corn between now and the 1st of September; but we are in hopes that the abundant resources of America and the south of Europe, both in the shape of wheat and Indian corn, will meet even this alarming exigency.

CRAYFORD, KENT.—Mr. Vincent delivered three lectures on the Philosophy of Human Progress, in the National School-rooms here, on the evenings of Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday last. The weather was very unpropitious, but notwithstanding this casualty the audiences were unexpectedly numerous. Although true, it would be trite to describe the enthusiasm which his brilliant oratory enkindled. Good has been done. The true principles of justice, freedom, and morality were proclaimed with a boldness and discretion which secured the approbation of all parties. Mr. Henry Gould, the Rev. Mr. Crichton, parish minister, and Mr. James Rattray, occupied the chair successively. On Friday, a deputation from Dartford waited on Mr. Vincent, and secured his services to deliver a lecture in the Town-hall there, on Tuesday. The bills are already issued, announcing that the proceeds are to be devoted to the Irish relief fund, and that the vicar of the parish is to preside. Kent is moving!—From a Correspondent.

A HOPEFUL SIGN.—It will be seen from our advertising columns that another fellow-worker in the cause of voluntarism and in opposition to class legislation of every kind, has been established in the north, under the title of the *Glasgow Times*. We take the following extract from the prospectus:—"We are especially decided in our opinions respecting ecclesiastical matters. ON PRINCIPLE WE ARE DISSENTERS. It will, accordingly, be our aim to state our principles calmly, broadly, manfully—to enforce them by such considerations as right reason, the Word of God, and the history of State Churches, supply—and to call upon all who think alike with us in these matters, to show themselves faithful to their principles and their country at this eventful crisis." We trust the commencement of another advocate of social, ecclesiastical, and political reform may be taken as an evidence of the increasing attachment of the people of Glasgow to sound principles, and that our contemporary, along with the *Glasgow Examiner* and *Post*, both supporters of the same cause, may long labour to promote, with success, the onward progress of civil and religious freedom.

WRECK OF A STEAMER AND LOSS OF NINETEEN LIVES.—The *Sirius*, a steamer temporarily plying between Dublin and Cork, has been wrecked at Ballycotton, near Cork, with a lamentable loss of life. During a fog early in the morning, she struck on a reef of rocks; the master had her backed off, but finding the vessel sinking, he was obliged to run it ashore again, where it was hourly in danger of going to pieces. The life-boat was got out, to begin landing the people: it would hold eight—about twenty deck-passengers crowded into it; it was swamped, and all perished, with the exception of one who caught hold of a rope, and was hauled on board again. After some time, the rest of the passengers and crew were safely got ashore, but with only the clothes on their backs: even the goods washed to land, and some articles got out of the vessel by the crew, were pilfered by the country people. The *Sirius* was valued at £15,000, and was only insured for £10,000. Had there been a light on Cable Island, ship, lives, and property, would have been saved.—A later account, derived from the *Cork Southern Reporter*, states that the *Sirius* has been literally smashed into small pieces, and not a vestige of her frame-work, hull, rigging, or spars, now remains together. The only object discernible on the rock where she went to pieces is the boiler and part of the engine, which have as yet resisted the lashing of the waves. Only one body has been found.

MY LORD THE RAILWAY KING.—A correspondent of the *Times* states, that the passengers by the 10a. 50m. night mail train from the north were, on Saturday last, detained no less than an hour beyond that time at the Gateshead station; and as time wore on and impatience was expressed, the truth came out that the train was waiting for King Hudson, who had been dining in Newcastle.—[Is this a part of his Majesty's prerogative?]

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

PORTUGAL.

By advices from Lisbon to the 20th inst., we learn that Saldanha's army, in two separate divisions, had nearly reached the southern bank of the Douro. His passage of the river would be effected in a day or two, and it was thought would be scarcely opposed. The insurgents were reserving all their energies for the defence of the town, which the Junta and Das Antas had been provisioning for some time, Das Antas having entered on the 7th. A complete coalition had been effected between the Miguelites and Democrats, and Royalist emissaries were beating up the recruits in the province of Minho to join in the defence of the town. By the terms of this coalition, if successful, the Queen was to be dethroned; and it was to be afterwards determined in Cortes whether the crown was to be worn by the Marquis de Loulé's son, as Don Pedro V., or by Don Miguel.

SPAIN.

An interesting debate took place in the Senate on the 16th inst. General Narvaez was the principal speaker, and declared himself as decidedly opposed to the recent acts of the Government, condemning especially the foreign interference from the other side of the Pyrenees, which humiliated and degraded Spain, and which can only result in misfortune and disgrace. The remarks of General Narvaez, which were received with loud acclamations from the galleries, evidently disconcerted M. Pidal, who professed not to understand what was meant, but General Narvaez repeated that those who doubted French interference in the affairs of Spain had only to refer to the account given by the *Journal des Débats* respecting the Spanish marriages. The speech of General Narvaez created an immense sensation, and the debate was adjourned.

FRANCE.

In the Legislature the debates on the address in reply to the King's speech have been proceeding. On Wednesday M. Guizot addressed the Chamber of Deputies; he retraced the narrative of the Montpensier affair, which was, substantially, a re-statement of his despatches. He concluded by declaring that France had violated no treaty or engagements. The relations between England and France, he was sorry to say, had been affected to a certain extent ever since. But he had too much confidence in the justice and respect for right which distinguished the British nation not to hope that they would perceive the necessity of the firm union of the two countries. The King's Government was decided to remain isolated, to abstain from all advances and concessions; and he was certain that the English discontent would ultimately subside, in the presence of the grave interests which had already manifested themselves in England as well as France.

The state of the country still continues very alarming, and prices were rising. Troops were marching from various points of France towards the theatre of the disturbances occasioned by the scarcity of provisions. Letters from Chateauroux, of the 20th inst., announce that the most energetic measures had been adopted to prevent the recurrence of the recent scenes of disorder. The Prefect, the Attorney-General, and the Instructing-Judge, repaired on the 19th to Buzançais, and ordered the arrest of the authors of the pillage on the 14th. The murderers of M. Chambert, amongst others, had been apprehended, and escorted to Chateauroux by the national guard of Villedier. The flying columns sent out by General de Rigny, in the neighbourhood of Chateauroux, had returned with many prisoners implicated in the late disturbances, and others had proceeded as far as Argenton, Mezière, Azay, St. Benoit, and Beuville, in pursuit of bands of plunderers, several of whom had been arrested.

Letters from Marseilles announce the arrival there of 150 vessels laden with grain.

UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

By advices a little later from Boston we learn that, on the 2nd inst., the House of Representatives, by a vote of 115 to 48, resolved "that it is inexpedient to levy any duty on tea and coffee." The decision of the House was given without the slightest debate. The Sub-treasury Bill had come into operation.

General Scott left New Orleans for Tampico on the 13th ult. Accounts from Tampico rumour that a large body of Mexican cavalry had been seen in the vicinity. From Monterey we learn that, on the 12th of December, General Taylor would start for Tampico, *via* Victoria, with one division of the army and a portion of a brigade. It was reported that General Urrea, with a troop of 6,000 Mexican cavalry, was at Victoria. It was reported, also, that Santa Anna had assembled a force of 28,000 men at San Luis. The chief, it is said, had imprisoned Ampudia and other officers on a charge of cowardice.

Mexico had been again the scene of intestine disturbances. The state of Tabasco, resenting the neglect with which the central Government treated the applications of the department for assistance at the time of Commodore Perry's recent attack upon Tabasco, had issued a *pronunciamiento* declaring independence.

INDIA.

By the overland mail advices have been received from Bombay to the 16th ult. The Punjab remains tranquil, and the British army, it is said, will march in the course of the present week from Lahore. It is rumoured that it will make a halt some march or two from the capital, to watch the immediate results of its retirement, before falling back on Ferozepore. It is probable, that for some time to come a strong force will be maintained at our principal frontier stations.

Unquestionable evidence has transpired of there having been an understanding betwixt the Rajah Lall Singh, Wuzer at Lahore, and Sheik Emaum-ood-deen, the Cashmerian insurgent leader, with the purpose of keeping Gholab Singh from taking possession of his new dominion. Lall Singh was accordingly deprived of power, and Meean Juwaheer Singh, son of Dhyen Singh, the notorious favourite of old Runjeet, who was butehand two years ago, has been appointed in his room. The new Wuzer, as being the nephew of

Gholab Singh, Maharajah of Jamoo, must be supposed to be altogether favourable to the interests of that party. It was supposed that the faction opposed to Gholab would excite disturbances against the new Wuzer.

Lord Hardinge is still within our lately acquired dominions, in progress to the westward. Some most extraordinary instances of gambling in opium have occurred in the course of the month. The Bombay bargains are usually made contingently on Calcutta quotations of the Government sales. To raise these, rival speculators bid till £13,000 was offered for chests usually disposed of for £150, the bidding being arranged that no sale could be effected that day. Government had made it a subject of special notification; and large fortunes depend on the results.

Formal possession is to be taken of the island of Labuan, and a permanent British settlement formed.

PAINLESS SURGICAL OPERATIONS.—Both the London and country papers abound with details of the successful use of the vapour of ether as an antidote to pain in surgical operations. In very few cases has it been known to fail. We have only room to notice one or two cases. At Bristol the leg of a female, aged sixty-three years, was amputated with the most perfect success!—"On Tuesday," says the *Gateshead Observer*, "at the Newcastle Infirmary, Sir John Fife, in the presence of several medical gentlemen and students, performed three or four operations on patients, after inhalation of sulphuric ether. In one case—the excision of an abscess—the patient (an elderly woman) never winced under the knife; and when the operation was over, she walked out of the room unsupported, saying she had felt no pain. In another case—the removal of the metatarsal bone—the same result did not ensue: the sufferer (a young man) complained loudly of pain."—"On Thursday afternoon, an Irishman was brought into the London Hospital with a compound fracture and dislocation of the tarsal bones of the foot. The man, after considerable reluctance, at last consented to amputation of the leg, provided the pain was in some way diminished. The vapour of ether was had recourse to, and applied in the presence of Dr. Pereira, and a numerous assembly of medical gentlemen. In five minutes the inhalation proved successful, and in less than another the leg was amputated by Mr. Adams, the patient during the time giving sly winks and facetious nods to those surrounding him. During the intervals of the inhalation his observations were of the most facetious character, forcing from the bystanders involuntary laughter, and converting that which to the poor fellow was a most tragical event into a scene little short of a farce. Upon removing the ether he called out, 'Hold hard there a bit, let's have another go at the grog,' which he drew in with the greatest avidity. Not for one moment during the operation did he exhibit the slightest symptoms of pain, but, on the contrary, his countenance was expressive of the greatest hilarity; and at the conclusion of the operation, after the effects of the ether had passed off, he could scarcely believe that his leg had been so painlessly removed. His ideas whilst under the influence of the vapour were similar to those of a person enjoying a pleasant dream; he had fancied himself walking in the streets of Cork with his sweetheart, and, to use his own expressions, 'enjoying most pleasurable sensations.' He slept well during the night, and is in every respect progressing favourably.

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE CHEAP POSTAGE SYSTEM.—A correspondent of a contemporary says:—"It is known that in America and on the Continent schemes have been proposed, the object of which is to bring letters from any inland town to any town on the sea-coast for the charge of one penny. Now suppose this were carried, is it not an imperative duty incumbent on the English nation to introduce throughout the whole world an 'Ocean Penny Postage?' Thus, suppose a friend in the far west of America wishes to write to a friend in Newcastle-on-Tyne, England. He puts himself in possession of the three penny stamped envelopes. On the first he writes the following address:—'James Green, bookseller, Newcastle-on-Tyne'; that is enclosed in another, addressed 'James Green, England'; and that in another, addressed 'James Green, England, to be sent per first mail from Boston.' Now here for three postage stamps the letter will be conveyed from the centre of America to Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, and will also be prepaid. The first envelope to be taken off at Boston, the second at Liverpool, and the letter, enclosed in the third, would reach the owner in Newcastle. No other nation on the face of the earth is capable of doing this. We pay 6d. for the carriage of 64lbs. of wheat from America to England, and can we not when we take into account the immense increase there would be in correspondence consequent on such a plan, carry letters from nation to nation, letters weighing only half an ounce for one penny?"

ASHFORD, KENT, JAN. 13.—The third anniversary of the British Union Schools was holden at the Assembly-rooms. One hundred and eighty persons sat down to tea. Afterwards Mr. T. Clarke, pastor of the Baptist church, was called to the chair, who made some suitable remarks on the importance of a general and moral education, based on the holy Scriptures, but unfettered by creeds and catechisms. An interesting report was then read of the last year's proceedings, communicating the pleasing intelligence that 124 children had been received, 266 were on the books, and 576 had been admitted since the formation of the schools. The current expenses were £156 10s. 2d.; and through the munificent sum of £25 each from Mrs. Tambourne, Miss Hagger, and William Betts, Esq., and the generous efforts of others, £100 had been paid towards the liquidation of the debt on the schools. The meeting was addressed by Messrs. Barr, Moody, and Gibbs. R. Smith, Esq., deputation from the Borough-road, gave a most lucid statement of the British School system, illustrated by a well-timed examination of children, whose answers gave universal satisfaction. Mr. Kingsland, S. B. Clark, and T. Nickalls, Esq., supported the resolution.

A PROFESSOR OF CHINESE is about to be established in King's College, London.

IRELAND.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

THE LOW FEVER, called by the peasantry "the plague," is extending in some of the remote districts in the county of Cork, and was beginning to excite the deepest apprehension amongst the upper classes. The fever is contagious. The following is an extract of a letter from Carrick-on-Suir:—"We are in an awful condition in this part of the country. Our Fever Hospital would be crowded with fifty-six, and we have now 126—three and four in each bed—all suffering from 'starvation fever'; and our workhouse has now 300 over the number."

DREADFUL MORTALITY IN THE WEST OF THE COUNTY OF CORK.—The *Cork Examiner* contains detailed reports of ten inquests at Bantry, at all of which verdicts were returned that death had been caused by starvation. The same journal contains the following extract from a private letter from Bantry:—"Each day brings with it its own horrors. The mind recoils from the contemplation of the scenes we are compelled to witness every hour. Ten inquests in Bantry—there should have been at least two hundred inquests. Each day, each hour, produces its own victims—holocausts offered at the shrine of political economy. Famine and pestilence are sweeping away hundreds—but they have now no terrors for the poor people. Their only regret seems to be that they are not relieved from their suffering and misery by some process more speedy and less painful. Since the inquests were held here on Monday there have been no less than twenty-four deaths from starvation; and if we can judge from appearances, before the termination of another week the number will be incredible. As to holding any more inquests, it is mere nonsense. The number of deaths is beyond counting."

From Mayo the reports are of the same melancholy character. From Kerry and other counties similar appalling statements have been received.

PROGRESS OF DESTITUTION.—A gentleman, whose statements are entitled to the highest respect, gives a most deplorable picture of the condition of the county of Roscommon—a condition which represents it to be infinitely worse than Skibbereen, or the most destitute parts of Mayo. He says that whole villages are depopulated, either by death or by the flight of such as have the means of transport to England, Scotland, or America. He counted in one village ten houses together abandoned by their owners, the doors torn off their hinges, the window-sills taken out, the rafters burned for firing, and the very flagstones at the entrance taken up and sold for a mouthful of food. An elderly man was sentenced to seven years' transportation, for sheep-stealing, at the quarter sessions last week; his appearance in the dock was that of a man reduced to the last agonies of hunger. He died in an hour after he received his sentence. Numbers of young men, mere boys, with wan cheeks, relieved by a hectic flush, were indicted for similar offences, and eagerly pleaded guilty, in the hope of transportation or imprisonment, or any punishment rather than the lingering death they were daily undergoing.

FALL IN THE PRICES OF GRAIN.—The re-action seems to have set in against the speculators; the Royal speech, and the tone of the leading addresses in both Houses of Parliament, having already had the beneficial effect of checking the upward tendency of prices of all kinds of grain. At the market of Athlone on Friday there was a perfect panic among the farmers, wheat having fallen no less than 5s., and oats 2s., per barrel under last week's quotations. Even at this reduction, owing to the abundant supplies, and the vast quantities offered for sale, it was rather difficult to obtain purchasers. A fall, though not on so extensive a scale, took place at the Limerick market on the same day. At Dublin wheat fell 1s. per barrel, and all kinds of grain showed a downward tendency.

CONSUMPTION OF SMOKE IN LIVERPOOL.—The good effects of the Liverpool Sanitary Bill are already visible. The steamers on the river, instead of vomiting forth, as heretofore, huge columns of black smoke, have been compelled to bring the aid of science to assist them in its consumption; and while the atmosphere on the river and about the pier-heads is much purer, the unsightly nuisance, which reflected such odium on this community, has disappeared.—*Manchester Express*.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—A serious accident happened to the 9 a. m. express train from Liverpool to Manchester, on Friday, the 22nd inst., owing to the accumulation of snow on the rails. The last two carriages were thrown off the line, and the front compartment of one of them coming in contact with a truck loaded with tar barrels, which was standing on a shunt by the side of main line of rails, was shattered to pieces; one of the passengers had his leg broken in two places, and sustained other serious injuries. He was carried into a cottage in the neighbourhood, and lies in a very precarious state; all the other passengers escaped with a few contusions, and the remainder of the train, after a delay of about twenty minutes, proceeded to Manchester.

RE-APPEARANCE OF THE POTATO DISEASE.—By a communication in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* of Saturday, it appears that Mr. Elphinstone, gardener to the Rt. Hon. the Speaker, at Heakfield, planted some walnut-leaf kidney potatoes, of the best quality, in pots, in November last, and that within the last three weeks every one of them has been attacked by disease, exactly as in January, 1846.

A DREADFUL ACCIDENT occurred on the 4th, in one of the first boarding-schools for young ladies at Berlin. A stove placed in one of the dormitories, in which twelve of the girls slept, had the effect of rendering them all senseless. Nearly all the medical men of the city hastened to the spot when the news of this calamity was spread abroad; and owing to their exertions eight were saved. Of the other four, one was dead when the accident was discovered; the other three showed signs of life, but died afterwards.—*Galvani's Messenger*.

FAMINE IN IRELAND AND SCOTLAND.

PROGRESS OF VOLUNTARY RELIEF.

RELIEF DEPUTATION FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE IRISH EVANGELICAL SOCIETY.—We have received a copy of a letter of "instructions to the Rev. Messrs. James and Garvey, setting forth the views of the committee of the Irish Evangelical Society, as to the principles and methods on which the bounty of the English churches for the relief of their suffering fellow-Christians and fellow-subjects should be distributed, for the satisfaction of those who have already contributed, and in hope that many others will become contributors to the same fund, from confidence and approval as to its judicious and effectual distribution." The very large demands upon our space will not allow of our inserting the document entire, but the following extracts will comprise the chief directions of the committee:—

With respect to your route through the country, the committee would refer that to your own discretion, only remarking that, in the hope of making your present journey supersede the usual yearly tour of inspection, the committee would advise you to visit all the society's stations, and would further express its desire that your inspection of the whole country should be as extensive and thorough as possible, with a view to many subsequent advantages, as well as to the most effectual accomplishment of your present object.

As to the classes of the people to whom you should extend the bounty of the churches confided to this committee for distribution, the views of the contributors must be faithfully carried out, as far as known. Happily, there is no discrepancy between the instructions they have given to the committee and its own convictions. The various sentiments expressed by different bodies of contributors complete the judgment of the committee on the whole case, which is—that the necessitous members of the churches of our own order should be first relieved, then other stated worshippers connected therewith; but that, when these first claims have been provided for, the suffering Catholic and Protestant should be equally relieved to the full extent of the provided means, irrespective of every consideration but those of a charity at once expansive and judicious; and you are requested to desire every distributor of the funds you administer to proceed by this rule, and in this spirit.

In regard to the agency to which you should confide the distribution of the relief apportioned to the several localities, this is a point of primary importance. The greatest present difficulty encountered by English benevolence in relieving the misery of Ireland, is to discover or open channels by which it may reach the obscure abodes of undiscovered and uncomplaining wretchedness—to find and employ an agency spread over the country that will seek out and relieve helpless age, destitute widows, and starving children. You will first and most amply provide the agents of this Society with means, which were designed chiefly for their distribution by the contributors, and which they will doubtless administer with equal fidelity and success. Then it appears to this Committee most proper, that portions of the fund should be confided to Congregational Ministers in Ireland, not connected with the Irish Evangelical Society; and also, that intelligent and respectable members of our congregations might in some instances be advantageously employed in the work of distribution.

The committee empowers you to place at once in the hands of brethren, whose services as distributors you would wish to secure, sums apportioned at your discretion, not exceeding £25 each. If, in any instances, you think additions beyond this amount should be made, the committee requests you to recommend such further grants for its consideration. You will also stipulate, that every person who is entrusted with a portion of the fund shall report its distribution to the committee.

You are advised to seek friendly communications, to the utmost practicable extent, with intelligent persons of all classes—to preserve your proceedings and intercourse as remote as possible from everything exclusive—to obtain information and sentiment from every trustworthy source—and to gain all accessible light on the real state of that still unknown and misunderstood country.

In order to the circulation, in England, of correct views respecting Ireland, the deputation are requested to keep a weekly report of their proceedings. The letter is signed by "T. M. Coombs, Chairman and Treasurer."

DEPUTATION FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF IRELAND.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—We beg to call the attention of your readers to our announcement concerning the starving millions of Ireland, and to solicit sympathy and aid in their behalf. Some of us have come from scenes of horror which we might in vain attempt to describe; and we have come to ask generous Englishmen to help us to mitigate the abounding misery. The case is urgent. The people are dying! If speedy relief be not afforded, many must perish from want of food. The Congregational Union of Ireland has refrained, perhaps too long, from appealing for help in this behalf, in the hope that other resources would meet the demands of the country. But longer delay is impossible. Famine, disease, and death, are raging in our land. We implore ministers of the gospel, and all benevolent individuals who have the means, to help us in our work, by contributing to a fund of relief, to be administered by our agents and committee who live and labour amongst the starving people; and by providing us opportunities of bringing the state of Ireland before the liberal people of England, who are ever ready to contribute to the relief of the distressed.

We shall be very grateful, Sir, for your kind aid and influence, in furtherance of our important undertaking, and we remain, yours truly,

W. URWICK, A. KING,
N. SHEPPARD, J. D. SMITH,
J. BEWGLASS, H. MARTIN.

[We understand that Mr. David Moxhay has, with his wonted liberality, offered the use of the Hall of Commerce to the deputation from the Congregational Union of Ireland, for the purpose of stating, as eye-witnesses, the dreadful scenes of which unfortunate Ireland is now the theatre. The statements which they shall there make, and repeat in other parts of the country, will, we have no doubt, have a powerful tendency to keep up the stream of British benevolence which is flowing from all points towards the Sister Island.]

BAPTIST IRISH SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—As there are some of the friends of the above Society who may not have seen the explanations which have appeared in other journals, of the plans which the committee have adopted in the distribution of relief to the starving Irish, I beg the favour of a small space in your valuable paper, to inform them upon these matters.

Until a recent period, the contributions have been mostly given for the benefit of those more immediately connected with our churches and congregations in Ireland. Latterly, they have been given for relief to be distributed according to the discretion of the committee. Large sums have been sent from Bristol, Norfolk, Leeds, Manchester, sundry places in Kent, Hants, Devon, Somerset, Staffordshire, Worcester, &c., which have had no restriction placed upon them; besides a very considerable quantity of useful articles of clothing.

I subjoin a few lines from a letter received, a few days ago, from the Rev. T. Berry, of Abbeyleix. They will be read with deep interest, and will fully explain the manner in which the matter is now conducted:—

The time is come when all the wretched beings around us are regarded as brethren. This day I have done something in the way you would desire. I have selected twelve families, and gladdened their hearts. To all I have given Indian meal according to their necessities. For example, the first family consists of parents and six children. *Neither had but one meal for three days!* In another case the father was on the public works, but could not go because he was sick; *but the wife took his place, striving to earn a miserable pittance.* The eldest child came to ask *one spoonful of flour to mix with water and a few onions.* I gave her an order for a stone of meal. She looked up in my face, for there were no words, and that look was worth to me fifty pounds! I do not know whether she or I was most rejoiced. Besides these families, I have subscribed to the soup-shop, which places many tickets at my disposal, whereby I can extensively relieve distress. The Public Works have done great good, but most of the unfortunate beings are not able to stand to work, and except relieved as I have described, must sink. May God richly and abundantly bless the kind donors to the fund."

Mr. Harcastle informs me that, "at Waterford, the cloud thickens. On the 15th inst. one hundred men were rejected at the poor-house for want of room. Dysentery is among them; sixteen deaths occurred last week. I am occupied from six a.m. to ten p.m., in one of our committees for cheap bread, and have registered 1,200 applicants; 400 more await me, and the visiting still goes on."

In all those districts where our agents labour, in the west, north, midland, and south, the calamity is direful. To these districts the committee have sent money to the missionaries, and considerable quantities of clothing. As the collections come in now liberally, they hope to continue this relief for some time to come. The donations and collections amount to about £1,500! a sum which speaks volumes for the benevolence of the churches throughout the land. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

FRED. TRESTRAIL, Secretary.

Mission-house, Jan. 19, 1847.

A QUEEN'S LETTER, in aid of the distresses in Ireland and Scotland, has been issued to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, directing its publication in the different dioceses. A collection is to be made at the private dwellings of the parishioners in the following week.

The King of Hanover has transmitted to the fund for the relief of distress in Ireland the sum of £1,000.

It is expected that fifty thousand dollars will shortly be transmitted to starving Ireland from the men of the Great Republic, and that New York state will send a goodly portion of the sum. With a population of only 6,000, Jersey city, N.Y., has collected one thousand dollars.—*Dublin Pilot.*

THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL has voted £2,000 for the relief of the distressed Irish and Scotch.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE RELIEF OF EXTREME DISTRESS IN THE REMOTE PARISHES OF IRELAND AND SCOTLAND.—The subscriptions advertised by this Society in yesterday's daily papers amount to nearly £100,000. Four steamers, with full cargoes of provisions, have been despatched to Ireland, and three more are being prepared. All these provisions are placed under the control of a naval officer of experience and ability, sent by the Committee, who has orders to distribute them gratuitously, or sell them to relief committees, as circumstances may direct, and the Government has kindly placed at the disposal of the Committee a depot at Cork. A liberal portion of the subscriptions has been assigned to the distressed districts in Scotland.

THE IRISH SOCIETY, and the General Central Relief Committee in Dublin, have also received large contributions for the same object.

Public meetings have been held in the principal towns of England and Scotland. At York £1,000 has been raised; at Hull, £1,600; at Manchester, £3,170; at Bristol, £380; Stafford, £500; Walsal, £200; at Liverpool, several thousands; Halifax, £1,500; Bury, £630; Colchester, £250; Bradford, £2,500; Bridgewater, £480; Plymouth, £650; Barnstaple, £400; and Wakefield, £350.

We string together a few interesting paragraphs on the efforts now making for the relief of Ireland:—At the Independent chapel of Mr. J. A. James, in Birmingham, on Sunday, no less a sum than upwards of £400 was collected towards the relief of the Irish poor.

—Mr. Hugh McNeile has received the liberal sum of £300 from Lord G. Bentinck, to be applied towards the relief of the distressed Irish and Scotch.—The subscription of the Society of Friends in this country, for the relief of the suffering Irish, amounts to £22,000, which averages £5 from each family, rich and poor.

—The esteemed representative of Ashburton, James Matheson, Esq., has contributed the munificent sum of £2,000 towards alleviating the great distress which prevails among the poor inhabitants of Scotland.—The Grocers' Company on Wednesday voted £1,000 for the relief of the distress in Ireland and Scotland, and £100 to the Metropolitan Relief Society, in addition to £200 voted to the same society in 1844.—

One clergyman alone (residing within eight miles of Salisbury) has raised the large amount of £5,000 amongst his own family and immediate connexions.—*Dorset County Chronicle.*—A ladies' association has been established under the patronage of the Queen Dowager and the principal ladies of title in the land, their list already showing a considerable sum.—The sum of £2,500 was collected in the chapels of Brighton last Sunday and the Sunday before, in behalf of the destitution in Ireland and the Highlands and islands of Scotland.—The proprietors of the Chinese Collection at Knightsbridge intend re-opening their exhibition for three days, for the benefit of the distressed poor in Ireland and Scotland.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—On Sabbath evening, the 17th inst., a most appropriate sermon was delivered at Whiting-street Chapel, by Dr. Jackson, the minister of the place, in aid of the destitute Irish and Scotch, when the sum of £44 13s. 1½d. was collected.

FAMINE IN IRELAND AND SCOTLAND.—MEASURES OF RELIEF.—In order to show the exertions making by the Government for this object, we may state that there are now employed thirty-one steamers and six sailing vessels in the conveyance of relief to the distressed population of Ireland and Scotland. There are five depôts in Ireland. In addition to the above, there must be added the crews lent from guardships, &c., not inserted in this table, amounting to between 600 and 700 men, making a total of nearly 3,000 men; and three of the larger packets will be temporarily taken from their stations for the relief service, of which the aggregate tonnage would probably be about 2,000, and the amount of horse power between 600 and 800.

A meeting of influential Wesleyans, convened by the President of the Conference, was held in London on Tuesday, and a Committee appointed to consider the means to be taken to relieve the Irish.

Public meetings on behalf of the starving Irish, have been held in South Shields, Newcastle, Sunderland, and Morpeth, and liberal subscriptions raised.

CORRESPONDENCE.

COLLEGE OF PRECEPTORS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

MY DEAR SIR,—I was glad to see, in a recent number of your paper, an article devoted to the above projected association, which has recently been obtruded by its promoters somewhat noisily on the attention of the public. I fully acquiesce in the very able and judicious remarks which you made on this novel, and, as appears to me, most objectionable scheme; and I think the cause has derived but little benefit from the letter of your correspondent, Mr. Freeman, which appears to have been elicited by your article. Your correspondent very unnecessarily, as it appears to me, repudiates, on the part of the College, any intention of exercising a despotic control over the minds of parents; in other words, of universal society in these realms. The singular want of qualification which generally characterizes the large body of teachers in this country, and which the proposed scheme is professedly designed to remedy, renders, I think, this concession a little gratuitous.

But there are two points which you have omitted to notice, and to which it may be worth while briefly to direct your attention. In the manifesto which I enclose to you, signed by a gentleman who styles himself "President of the Council," and which bears date October 27th, 1846, I find the following notification:—

"Assistant masters, who are desirous of the distinction which the certificates of the college will give, are to send in their names, specifying the class in which they desire to be examined, on or before the 18th December next. And they are reminded that, for the future, none but the accredited and passed members of the college will be deemed admissible to a considerable number of the most desirable situations in schools, it being the general intention of those who promote the interests of the college, as it must eventually become the determination of all the members of the profession, to give the preference to assistants who can produce the irrefragable evidence of scholastic ability which the college testimonials will afford."

In this paragraph, as appears to me, is involved, to the utmost extent, the principle of a self-constituted monopoly; and I venture to predict that very few of that most deserving and ill-recompensed body, designated as assistant-masters, on whose talents and exertions nine-tenths of our country schools are mainly indebted for their success, will submit to any such examination, especially if they have perused the document which now lies before me, and which I must take leave to characterize as utterly illiterate.

But, Sir, you will perceive that the avowed object of the college, as stated in the prospectus, is "to exclude" the ignorant and the incapable from the profession. You need not be reminded that these constitute an overwhelming majority; and yet, in the latter part of the same document, I find the following notice:—

"It may be as well to remind the members of the profession (i.e., the principals of schools) that but a short time remains during which they will be eligible as members of the college WITHOUT BALLOT OR EXAMINATION."

Surely this needs no comment. If it did, we might find it on the next page of the prospectus:—

"Annual fee, £1 1s. to principals, and 10s. 6d. to assistants."

After this, I think it must be unnecessary to request your insertion of the prospectus, or to enter into any further examination of the claims of the "College of Preceptors."

I am, my dear Sir, yours very truly,
January 25th, 1847. C. R. E.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Allow me to return you my cordial thanks for your exposure of one part of the movements of the College of Preceptors. I do this, though your article convicts me of a want both of discernment and attention; and proves, that whilst I have been anxiously desirous that this new society should not infringe on the religious liberties of Englishmen, my mind has not been sufficiently directed to that feature of it which you have so justly exposed. I think myself happy, that I endeavoured to enlist your pen in favour of rights, dear to all true Nonconformists, and which, I apprehend, might be endangered by the movements of this society, if the utmost vigilance was not used.

Sir, I should be recreant to my long-cherished opinions, were I not to attempt to use whatever of local influence I possess, in the Board here established, that it may never be

identified with that principle which has justly merited your indignation, and which, if carried out, would prove so hostile to the civil liberties of Englishmen, and ultimately so fatal to their religious liberties also. I will rather say *Peccavi*, than, though flattered by my brethren in the profession of Plymouth, Stonehouse, and Devonport, in being chosen as their President, ever lend my aid to the establishment of a monopoly over the minds as well as the rights and affections of parents, or to any system that will result in "a supersession of their judgment, prudence, and responsibility." Unless, therefore, I can obtain from the Board, formed in these towns, a resolution to the effect that it will use its utmost exertions with the parent society, that no attempt, in any application to Government for obtaining any power, shall be made, that shall not leave parents and teachers, not connected with this body, as free and independent of each other as they now are, I must resign the position I occupy, and all connexion with this Society. But I believe the feature you have exposed has escaped the observation of my fellow-schoolmasters as well as myself and of that vigilant guardian of public affairs, Douglas Jerrold. I firmly believe that many of them do not wish for any exclusive power. Their object, like my own, is not to obtain exclusive rights and privileges. They do not aim to establish a monopoly. Indeed, the "intermeddling with supply and demand in education," by the deputation of schoolmasters to Lord John Russell, has already excited some unchecked remarks of disapprobation in this Board. My belief—in common, I hope, with that of many other schoolmasters—is, that whilst literary distinctions can only be obtained on very expensive terms, at a great loss of time, and, with respect to Cambridge and Oxford, on very exclusive religious conditions, some other mode of obtaining a status in the literary world is a great desideratum. As a Dissenter, I feel this a very important consideration, not on my own account, but on that of the rising race of schoolmasters. Having been engaged, as a teacher, nearly forty years, my observation has convinced me that men of the most eminent talents, as instructors of youth, have stood but little chance, when they had to compete with men on whom some literary body had conferred some honorary title. That some means should be used by which young men, employed in the art of tuition, may obtain such honorary distinctions, and secure to themselves such a position in literary society, as are in proportion to their attainments, irrespective of their religious creed, really appears to me worthy of attention. This seems especially the case to teachers who are Nonconformists; for they find that the more wealthy classes, even of Dissenters, seem generally to have no confidence in any instructor, unless he has obtained some honourable position at one of the Universities. Nor is it much to be wondered at, that gentlemen who have attained literary honours, in these places, should be preferred. In many cases, it has been a work of many years, that has given a teacher, not so favoured, though possessing the most eminent abilities for tuition, the power to elevate himself—at least, in the opinion of society—to a stand equal to the lowest of such men. In the majority of instances, this is quite impossible. What, then, is to be done? Surely Nonconformists ought to do something to enable teachers fairly to compete with those who now stand on such vantage ground. This ought, surely, to be done, not for the sake of obtaining a name in society, or a position as belonging to a profession (this is really childish), but that the sons of the higher classes, and especially of Dissenters, may have confidence in men of ability, as teachers, though they have not the honours of a university. Besides, it is evident that the want of literary distinctions, conferred by some competent body, is really the source of a vast deal of quackery, in the shape of deceptive exhibitions of pupils, and such advertisements as tend to gull the public. Under existing circumstances, it is not to be wondered at, nor, perhaps, even a blameable act, that a teacher should endeavour to bring himself into notoriety by means he otherwise would not use. Nor is it meant to be said, that all public exhibitions and advertisements are specimens of charlatanism; but, that unless teachers can have an opportunity of obtaining, at a cheaper rate and on less objectionable terms than is now the case, diplomas for their literary attainments, artifice and manœuvre will be adopted to obtain notoriety.

Will you, then, Sir, allow me to ask you to employ your pen in endeavouring to excite the attention of the public, that the rising race of schoolmasters, and especially Dissenters, may, by some means—not on exclusive grounds, either political or religious, and not for the purpose of being dubbed as professors—obtain honorary distinctions proportionate to their attainments, that they may better be able to compete with those whose chief merit is that they have been taught at a university? The insertion of this article in your valuable paper will oblige,

Yours respectfully,
G. SLATER.
61, Union-street, Stonehouse,
near Plymouth, Jan. 18th, 1846.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH AND CRACOW.—The ministers of Austria, Russia, and Prussia did not attend the opening of Parliament with the rest of the *corps diplomatique*, in consequence of the formal protest contained in her Majesty's speech against the annexation of Cracow. This step was taken by their Excellencies as a mark of respect to an opinion so forcibly expressed by the Sovereign of this country, with reference to the violation of the treaty of Vienna by their respective Courts.

REPRESENTATION OF SALISBURY.—Salisbury presents all the bustle of an active canvass, occasioned by the retirement of Mr. Ambrose Hussey, one of the late members. The candidates are Mr. T. B. Martin, and Mr. Chaplin, the chairman of the South Western Railway Company. Mr. Martin stands as a Protectionist, Mr. Chaplin as a Free-trader.

THE CONDE DE MONTEMOLIN was present by invitation in the House of Lords at the opening of Parliament. He and his suite occupied the seats in the gallery generally allotted to foreign princes.

EXTRAORDINARY SUICIDE.—Three non-commissioned officers, in garrison at Cherbourg, last week put an end to their existence. Two of them, bound together by a close friendship, were rather irregular in their conduct, and after a day's debauch they both took a bath, in order to appear, they said, pure before the Eternal, and then blew out their brains. The third, after returning from their funeral, did the same.—*Galignani*.

RAILWAY DEPOSITS.—The total of railway deposits for the present session, placed to the credit of the Accountant-General of the Court of Chancery in compliance with the standing orders, is about £4,200,000. More than half of this sum consists of Stock and Exchange Bills in nearly equal amounts.

GLEANINGS.

THE VESTED INTERESTS OF SMITHFIELD.
(From Jerrold's Newspaper.)

In Smithfield once, when bigot ire
Bade Persecution's vengeance wake,
Fell Priestcraft raised the torturing fire,
And bound the victim to the stake:
And men did murder fellow-men,
With pangs that fiends would scarce contrive:
By fellow-Christians, Christians then
For conscience' sake were burnt alive.

What was the pretext; what the cause,
Whereon the zealot's crew relied?
Whence came their sanguinary laws,
And deeds of savage homicide?
Why unto justice, and to truth,
Closed they their ears, and steel'd their breasts?
What was their motive, but, forsooth,
Regard for "Vested Interests."

Extinguish'd now are Smithfield's fires,
The faggot blazes there no more;
The scenes are vanish'd that our sires
Saw in the dismal days of yore:
But death in Smithfield still is rife,
And scarcely comes a market morn,
But to the loss of human life,
Thanks to some angry bullock's horn!

And whence, with slaughter coupled still,
Is Smithfield, to our times' disgrace?
How comes it that a name so ill
Yet clings about the fatal place?
Why is this plague-spot to remain,
Against it whilst the age protests?
Public! the answer is, again,
Regard for "Vested Interests."

BULLCALF.

[The following paragraph from the daily papers of yesterday forms an appropriate commentary on the above:—"Between one and two o'clock on Monday, a lad named Thomas Radcliffe, aged sixteen, was knocked down opposite the Adelaide hotel, London-bridge, and gored by an ox, which, together with others, was being driven from Smithfield market towards Camberwell. The wound will, it is feared, prove fatal."]

A GREAT FACT.—Died, on the 1st of January, 1847, aged ninety-three, Mr. John Cushing, of Hursford, Norfolk, being father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, to 129 children.

A BRIGHT IDEA.—In Dalmellington, Ayrshire, the cost of the gas consumed in the street lamps is defrayed by an annual dancing festival, called the "Gas Ball!"

In the comparatively small town of Pittsburgh, U.S., there are nine daily newspapers.

It is stated that nine-tenths of the Parisian papers depend for their circulation upon the romances they publish.

According to a writer in the *Quarterly Review*, out of 2,345 children in 15 ragged schools, 249 had never slept in beds.

EARLY GENIUS.—The price of bread was raised in Ayr on Tuesday week. A boy went into one of our bakers' shops the same afternoon, and asked for a loaf of *yesterday's* baking. The towel round it, he tendered the old price, when another halfpenny was demanded, on the ground that the price had risen that day. "Oh," said young hopeful, "that's sure enough, but the loaf is of *yesterday's* baking!" The baker laughed for his halfpenny. The boy might do for Go-Ahead Land.—*Ayr Advertiser*.

A correspondent of the *Athenæum* suggests that all the profits of railways, beyond 10 per cent. should be expended by directors in the conversion of their stations into picture-galleries.

The *Sheffield Iris* states, that neither sun, moon, nor stars, shone upon that town for the first thirteen days of the present year.

LIBEL ON LAW AND PHYSIC.—When Dr. H. and Sergeant A. were walking arm in arm, a wag said to a friend, "These two are just equal to a highwayman." "Why?" was the response. "Because," rejoined the wag, "it is a lawyer and a doctor—your money or your life."

It has been computed that the Wellesley family has received from the public, in hard cash or its equivalents, upwards of three millions sterling!

Lord John Russell has granted £100 from the royal bounty, for the children of the late Thomas Hood, until they can be put on the pension list.

It was stated, at the last meeting of the Manchester Commercial Association, that cotton had been grown on the experimental farm of the East India Company, at Coimbatore, Madras, almost equal to the best produced at New Orleans.

The *Perth Courier* relates the case of a gentleman of property, in that city, who, being alarmingly ill, and surrounded by his relations, appeared to give up the ghost. They were swathing him in linen, and talking about the division of his property, when he started up, and stared about so wildly, that most of the expectants fled in terror. He has since recovered.

The Waterford distillery has ceased working for want of corn.

A LUXURIOUS LITTLE PIG.—On Saturday week, a young pig entered a confectioner's shop in Preston, in the absence of the proprietor, and devoured twenty shillings' worth of cakes, tarts, and mince pies. His luxurious repast was worth more than himself, his full value being ten shillings.—*Live rpool Albion*.

The Bishop of Ely, says a London paper, has purchased, for a few shillings, an old dirty picture, which turns out to be a genuine likeness of Shakespeare.

SPARE MINUTES.—Spare minutes are the gold dust of time; and Young was writing a true as well as a striking line, when he taught that "sands make the mountain, moments make the year." Of all the portions of our life, the spare minutes are the most fruitful in good or evil. They are the gaps through which temptations find the easiest access to the garden of the soul.

In Great Britain, the Roman Catholics possess 622 churches and chapels, 14 colleges, 34 convents, and 8 monasteries. The number of their missionary priests is 818.

A family council will be held shortly at the Tuileries, conformably to the French law, to authorize the Duchess de Montpensier, who is a minor, to transfer the property situated in Spain.

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES OF WATER-CRESS.—Water-cress acts as a gentle stimulant and diuretic; for these purposes the expressed juice, which contains the peculiar taste

and pungency of the herb, may be taken in doses of an ounce or two, and continued for a considerable time. It should be at the same time eaten for breakfast, also at dinner and supper, to experience benefit from the virtues of this herb. Haller says, "I have seen patients in deep declines cured by almost entirely living upon this plant."

CURIOSITIES OF HISTORY.—Pulteney, the great leader of the Opposition, afterwards Earl of Bath, having, in one of his speeches, made a Latin quotation, was corrected by Sir Robert Walpole, who offered to wager a guinea on the inaccuracy of the lines. The bet was accepted, the classic referred to, and Pulteney being found to be right, the Minister threw the guinea across the table, which Pulteney, as he took it up, called the House to witness that it was the first guinea of the public money he had ever put into his pocket. The very coin thus lost and won is still preserved, as the "Pulteney guinea," in the British Museum.

AN AMERICAN "DUKE."—A SPARTAN.—The *New York Sun* boasts of a warlike "Duke," who eclipses even Wellington. The editor calls her,—yes! "her," for the American "Duke" is of the fair sex—he calls her "a Spartan;" and the reader shall judge how far the description is deserved. "The widow Duke, of South Carolina," says the *Sun*, "caused four of her sons to volunteer for the war with Mexico, and has written to Colonel Butler to make room for a fifth, who is a cripple, that he may serve on horseback!" If the widow should ever see her five sons again, she will probably find that she has got more "cripples" than one.—*Gateshead Observer*.

AN UNFORTUNATE INTERRUPTION.—A curious instance occurred lately, of the importance of a public speaker's calculating the effect of his words if he should be prevented from concluding them. In a country theatre, something behind the scenes caught fire, and great confusion among the audience was the result. The manager presented himself, and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, I beg you would not remain an instant—" The confusion of course was redoubled, and several persons were near being trampled to death. The manager had intended to say, "I beg you would not remain an instant under the impression that there is any danger."

SCOTCH AND IRISH.—SIR WALTER SCOTT AND TOM MOORE.—I must tell you one of his (Moore's) stories, because, as Sir Walter Scott is the hero of it, I know it will not be unacceptable to you. When George IV. went to Ireland, one of the "pisintry," delighted with his affability to the crowd on landing, said to the toll-keeper as the King passed through, "Och now! and his Majesty, God bless him, never paid the turnpike, an' how's that!" "Oh! kings never does; we let 'em go free," was the answer. "Then there's the dirty money for ye," says Pat. "It shall never be said that the King came here, and found nobody to pay the turnpike for him." Moore, on his visit to Abbotsford, told this story to Sir Walter, when they were comparing notes as to the two royal visits. "Now Mr. Moore," replied Scott, "there ye have just the advantage of us; there was no want of enthusiasm here; the Scotch folk would have done anything in the world for his Majesty, but—pay the turnpike."—*Thomas Ingoldsby*.

EFFECTS OF FOUL AIR.—The purity of the air we breathe, is quite as important as the wholesomeness of the food we eat. When air is loaded with putrid gases, from decaying animal and vegetable substances, it becomes an actual poison. When the air is very foul indeed, it has been known, in some few instances, to destroy life in an instant; and very often fatal disease is brought on by exposure to such air, even for a short time. But the general effect of impure air is the gradual diminution of health and strength, not producing actual disease, but rather that *tendency to disease* which renders every sickness with which a person may be attacked, more severe, more unmanageable, and more frequently fatal.—*Why are Towns Unhealthy?*

ANECDOTE OF THE LATE L. E. L.—On the other hand in mixed companies, witty and conversant as she was, you had a feeling that she was playing an assumed part. Her manner and conversation were not only the very reverse of the tone and sentiment of her poems, but she seemed to say things for the purpose of astonishing you with the very contrast. You felt not only no confidence in the truth of what she was asserting, but a strong assurance that it was said merely for the sake of saying what her hearers would least expect to hear her say. I recollect once meeting her in company, at a time when there was a strong report that she was actually though secretly married. Mrs. Holland, on entering the room, went up to her in her plain, straightforward way, and said, "Ah! my dear, what must I call you?—Miss Landon, or who?" After a well-feigned surprise at the question, Miss Landon began to talk in a tone of merry ridicule of this report, and ended by declaring that, as to love or marriage, they were things that she never thought of. "What, then, have you been doing with yourself this last month?" "Oh, I have been puzzling my brain to invent a new sleeve; pray how do you like it?" showing her arm. "You never think of such a thing as love!" exclaimed a young sentimental man, "you, who have written so many volumes of poetry upon it?" "Oh, that's all professional, you know!" exclaimed she, with an air of merry scorn. "Professional!" exclaimed a grave Quaker, who stood near—"why, dost thou make difference between what is professional, and what is real? Dost thou write one thing and think another? Does not that look very much like hypocrisy?" To this the astonished poetess made no reply, but by a look of genuine amazement. It was a mode of putting the matter to which she had evidently never been accustomed. And, in fact, there can be no question that much of her writing was professional. She had to win a golden harvest for the comfort of others as dear to her as herself; and she felt like all authors who have to cater for the public, that she must provide, not so much what she would of her free-will choice, but what they expected from her.—*William Howitt's Homes and Haunts of British Poets*.

THE DEFAULTING STATES OF AMERICA.—Of the twenty-seven states which now compose the Union, the following nine have no public debt:—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Missouri (at least, none in England). The following nine states have regularly paid their interest without interruption:—Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama. Pennsylvania suspended payment in August, 1842, and resumed in February, 1845. The following eight have failed to pay their debts, and are still in default:—Mississippi failed to pay in May, 1841; Indiana, July, 1841; Illinois, January, 1842; Florida, January, 1842; Michigan, January, 1842; Maryland, January, 1842; Louisiana (on part of her debt), December, 1842; Arkansas, 1841.—*Correspondent of the Times*.

EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.—A district meeting of this Alliance assembled in Leeds during the present week. On Tuesday morning, a devotional service was held in the Music-hall; and, afterwards, the Divisional Committee met for business. In the evening, a public meeting was held in the same place; its object being, the explanation of the principles and objects of the Alliance. E. Baines, jun., Esq., filled the chair, and was supported by a large body of distinguished clergymen, ministers, and laymen; among whom we observed the Rev. Dr. Hamilton, of Leeds; the Rev. J. Ely, Leeds; the Rev. J. Pridie, Halifax; the Rev. J. Parsons, York; the Rev. C. Larom, Sheffield; the Rev. G. B. Macdonald, Wakefield; the Rev. John Maclean, Wakefield; the Rev. H. Dowson, Bradford; the Rev. W. H. Bathurst, rector of Berwick; the Rev. A. G. Kinsman, Oildersome, &c. H. Forbes, Esq., Bradford; E. M. Wavell, Esq., Halifax, &c. The Rev. G. Osborn (Wesleyan), of Liverpool; the Rev. W. Ewbank, of Trinity church, Aylesbury; and the Rev. Professor Stowell, of Rotherham, were the chief speakers, up to the time our reporter left. The attendance at all the meetings, which were continued yesterday, has been good; the ladies, as usual, being the most numerous.—*Bradford Observer.*

THE "MORNING HERALD" ON THE ENDOWMENT OF THE CATHOLIC CLERGY.—For countries where religious feeling is at a wretchedly low ebb, as in some parts of the continent of Europe, the Liberal or Pantheon principle may be very suitable. Where not one man in ten knows or cares whether there be a Divine Revelation extant or not, political expediency may very naturally appear an admirable principle of action. But England is not yet sunk so low as to bear such a system. The response of her people would be, "If there be a true religion, accessible and intelligible—as we believe there is—let it be established and maintained. But if there be no such thing, let not the State waste its money, or its patronage, on the propagation of vain and useless inventions." [What would the Right Rev. Bench, in receipt of their thousands per annum, say to this?]

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.—The official document of the public income and expenditure for the year ending the 7th of January instant, laid before Parliament on Wednesday, was issued on Saturday. The total income for the year was £53,790,138 7s. 6d., and the expenditure £50,943,830 8s. 3d., leaving an excess of income over the expenditure of £2,846,307 19s. 2d. The balances in the Exchequer, on the 5th of January, 1846, amounted to £8,452,090 0s. 0d., and on the 5th of the present month they were £9,131,282 7s. 10½d.

BIRTHS.

Jan. 18, at Dover, the wife of R. MUMFERY, Esq., surgeon-dentist, of a son.
Jan. 20, at Grosvenor-terrace, Horseferry-road, Westminster, the wife of Mr. WILLIAM NELSON, of a daughter.
Jan. 22, at High-street, St. John's Wood, Mrs. GEORGE SALMON, of a son.
Jan. 23, shortly after midnight, the wife of Mr. G. B. KIDD, of Scarborough, minister, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

Jan. 12, at the Baptist Chapel, St. Andrew's, Cambridge, by Mr. Rolf, minister, Mr. JAMES HART, ironmonger, to MARIA CLARKE, the eldest daughter of Mrs. Chapman, of Eden-terrace.
Jan. 17, at St. Paul's Independent Chapel, Wigan, by the pastor, Mr. W. ROAF, Mr. BAXENDALE, of Hindley, to Miss M. GREGORY.
Jan. 19, at the Independent Chapel, Framlingham, Mr. JOHN KING, Elm Hill, Norwich, to SUSANNAH MARIA, only daughter of the late Mr. T. J. SCOTT, of Lavenham.
Jan. 20, at Chard-street Chapel, Axminster, by Mr. Richard Penman, minister, Mr. RICHARD BURROUGHS, of Staple Fitzpaine, near Taunton, to MARY GRABHAM, daughter of Mr. Adams, of Waycroft, near Axminster.
Jan. 20, at Zion Chapel, Whitstable, by Mr. D. Harrison, minister, Mr. JOHN STEPHENS, ironmonger, to Mrs. G. HOPPER, both of Whitstable.
Jan. 21, at the Baptist Chapel, Tewkesbury, by Mr. John Berg, Mr. ENOCH GRIFFITHS, minister, of Nocton, Norfolk, to Miss ELIZABETH LONG, of Tewkesbury.
Jan. 21, in London, by license, STEPHEN, son of Stephen PRITCHARD, Esq., of Deal, to CAROLINE, youngest daughter of E. A. KUTZ, Esq., of Esq., of New York.

DEATHS.

Jan. 13, at Carrickfergus, aged 36 years, Mr. JOHN M'ASSEY, minister of the Independent Church there, after a lingering illness, which he bore with great Christian resignation.
Jan. 14, at Hook Norton, Oxon, of pressure on the brain, in his 13th year, JOHN COLLETT, youngest and only surviving son of the late John WHEELER, Esq., of the same place.
Jan. 14, at Yarmouth, Norfolk, Mrs. GOODHERHAM, in the 82nd year of her age.
Jan. 16, at Chatteris, of consumption, aged 16, RICHARD, eldest son of the late C. BILLIPS, Esq. His end was peace.
Jan. 17, at his residence, Fulford-grange, near York, CHARLES HARRIS, one of the Society of Friends, and formerly a partner in the original banking firm of Peckover and Harris, Bradford, Yorkshire.
Jan. 19, at Hallaton, aged 34, THOMAS, third son of Mr. Thomas BAINES, of that place, formerly of Leicester.
Jan. 20, at the residence of his father, Ford-street, Derby, aged 23, Mr. RICHARD TOMLINSON, M.A., late of Glasgow University and Spring Hill College, Birmingham.
Jan. 22, ANN, the beloved wife of Mr. John NICHOLSON, of 26, Hackney-road, in her 44th year.
Jan. 24, after a few hours' illness, of scarlet fever, aged 19 months, CATHERINE SELINA, youngest child of Mr. Thomas CHALLIS, Westmoreland-place, City-road.
Jan. 24, of consumption, at her residence, 8, Carlton-villas, Maidvale, Miss HARRIET ELEANOR BALL, aged 24.
Jan. 24, at Greenwich, aged 4 months, JAMES, son of Mr. J. W. LANCOR, and grandson of Mr. A. G. Fuller, minister.
Jan. 25, at Denmark-hill, JOHN BUXTON, Esq., M.D., of Brownlow-street, Bedford-row, in the 28th year of his age.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Friday, January 22.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnizing marriages, pursuant to an act of the 6th and 7th William IV., c. 85:—

Wesleyan Chapel, Newbury, Berks.
General Baptist Chapel, New Lenton, Nottinghamshire.
Unitarian Chapel, Doncaster.
Catholic Chapel, Moulsham, Essex.

BANKRUPTS.

ASHBY, CHARLES, Bishops Stortford, tailor, Feb. 3, March 4: solicitor, Mr. Jackson, New Inn, Strand.
BARNES, ROBERT, Hammersmith, ironmonger, Jan. 30, March 13: solicitors, Messrs. Holmer and Sons, Bridge-street, Southwark.
BOWYER, THOMAS, Strand, bookseller, Feb. 4, March 3: solicitor, Mr. Hudson, Bucklersbury.
CLARKE, THOMAS, Cheltenham, licensed victualler, Feb. 5, March 5: solicitor, Mr. Lovegrove, Gloucester.
ELLETT, ELIZABETH, Turk's Head Inn, Devonshire, innkeeper, Feb. 3, March 2: solicitors, Mr. M. Fryer, Exeter; and Messrs. Makinson and Sanders, Elm-court, Temple.
GANDALL, JOHN HASKINS, Rock-ferry, Cheshire, Feb. 5, March 5:

solicitors, Mr. Shuttleworth, Field-court, Gray's Inn, London; and Mr. W. K. Tyrer, Liverpool.
JOHNSON, JOHN, Chelmsford, grocer, Jan. 29, March 5: solicitors, Messrs. Harrison and Dobree, Hart-street, Bloomsbury.
SEVER, CORNELIUS JOSEPH, Leeds, baker, Feb. 2 and 23: solicitors, Mr. Strangways, Barnard's Inn, London; and Mr. Robinson, Leeds.

SKINNER, WILLIAM, Dale-hall, Staffordshire, licensed victualler, Feb. 9, March 2: solicitor, Mr. W. Williams, Hanley.
SLOUGH, JOSEPH, Twickenham, baker, Jan. 28, March 3: solicitor, Mr. Ablett, Newcastle-street, Strand.

WELLS, WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER, Poultry, merchant, Jan. 20, March 5: solicitor, Mr. Buchanan, Basinghall-street.
WENMAN, JOSEPH, Birkenhead, wine merchant, Jan. 29, Feb. 26: solicitors, Messrs. Gregory and Co., Bedford-row, London; and Mr. J. O. Watson, Liverpool.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

LA GUERRANDE, JOHN, and Co., Glasgow, merchants, Jan. 29, Feb. 26.
MACKELLAR, PETER, Glasgow, pianoforte manufacturer, Jan. 27, Feb. 17.
MARSHALL, JOHN, Glasgow, merchant, Jan. 27 and Feb. 17.
MITCHELL, ROBERT, and MURR, ARCHIBALD, Glasgow, fish and provision merchants, Jan. 29, Feb. 26.
THORNBURN, WALTER, Glasgow, coach builder, Jan. 27, Feb. 17.
WRIGHT, JAMES WATSON, Abington, Lanarkshire, Jan. 27, Feb. 17.

DIVIDENDS.

John Ellis West and Henry Tennant, Leeds, stockbrokers, first div. of 2s.; at 4, Commercial-buildings, Leeds, any Friday—Robert Weare, Leeds, dyer, first div. of 3s. 4d.; at 4, Commercial-buildings, Leeds, any Friday—Abraham Hindes and John Thompson, Leeds, stockbrokers, second and final div. of 5s.; at 4, Commercial-buildings, Leeds, any Friday—James Thompson and John Thompson, Leeds, stockbrokers, second div. of 2s. 6d.; at 4, Commercial-buildings, Leeds, any Friday—Thomas Maguire, Birmingham, draper, first div. of 6d.; at 7, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, any Tuesday before March 25—John George Schott and John Casper Lavater, Manchester and London, merchants, first div. of 7½d., and the separate estate of John George Schott, first div. of 4s. 6d.; at 33, George-street, Manchester, any Tuesday—John Holt, Rusholme, banker, final div. of 20s.; at 73, George-street, Manchester, any Tuesday—James Riding and James Fielding, Leyland, cotton manufacturers, first div. of 1s. 2½d.; at 73, George-street, Manchester, any Tuesday—Sally Budd, Newton Abbot, grocer, first div. of 5s. 6d.; at Paul-street, Exeter, any day after Jan. 26.

Tuesday, Jan. 26th.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

CRAMP, JOHN, Garlinge, Kent, cowkeeper.
O'HANLON, PATRICK, Liverpool, draper.
DALE, JAMES, jun., Sumner-street, Southwark, carman.

BANKRUPTS.

ACROYD, WILLIAM, Idle, Yorkshire, grocer, Feb. 9, March 2: solicitors, Messrs. Williamson and Co., Gray's Inn, London; and Mr. Carriss, Leeds.
CANNABE, JOSEPH JAMES, Bath, fringe manufacturer, Feb. 9, March 9: solicitors, Messrs. Rickards and Co., Lincoln's Inn-fields; and Mr. H. E. Drake, Bath.
CHRISTIAN, EDWARD, Liverpool, shipsmith, Feb. 8, March 5: solicitors, Mr. Oliver, Old Jewry, London; and Mr. Hodgson, Liverpool.
DOBBS, CHARLES, Rotherham, mason, Feb. 5 and 26: solicitors, Mr. Taylor, John-street, Bedford-row, London; and Mr. Badger, Rotherham.

M'LAURIN, ANDREW SCOTT, formerly of Gutter-lane, City, but now of Bradford, warehouseman, Feb. 6 and 26: solicitors, Messrs. Reed and Co., Friday-street, Cheapside, London; and Messrs. J. and H. Richardson, Leeds.
RICHARDS, OWEN, Fleet-street, law bookseller, Feb. 1, March 8: solicitor, Mr. Lewis, 9, Gray's Inn-square.
NOTWILL, JOHN, Falmouth, baker, Feb. 9, March 9: solicitors, Mr. J. B. Moorman, Falmouth; Messrs. Bishop and Pitts, Exeter; and Mr. J. J. B. Tippetts, Paneras-lane, London.

NEWSTAD, THOMAS, Norwich, linen draper, Feb. 5, March 20: solicitors, Mr. Torkington, New Bridge-street, London; and Messrs. Tillett and Co., Norwich.
RICKETTS, FREDERICK, and JAMES, TREVENEN, 8, Moorgate-street, City, merchants, Feb. 5, March 19: solicitors, Messrs. Tilsons, Squance, Clarke, and Morris, Coleman-street.
REYNOLDS, WILLIAM, jun., Leeds, confectioner, Feb. 6 and 26: solicitors, Messrs. Jones and Co., John-street, Bedford-row, London; and Messrs. Harle and Clarke, Leeds.

ROBINSON, JOHN, and TURLAY, THOMAS, Leeds, share brokers, Feb. 6 and 26: solicitors, Messrs. Few and Co., Henrietta-street, London; and M. J. E. Upton, Leeds.
SLOAN, JOHN THOMAS KENT, Manchester, tavern keeper, Feb. 6, 26: solicitors, Mr. J. B. Wathen, 18a, Basinghall-street; and Mr. M. Cohen De Lara, Manchester.
SMITH, THOMAS, Manchester, commission agent, Feb. 8, March 3: solicitors, Mr. J. Abbot, 10, Charlotte-street, Bedford-square, London; and Messrs. Atkinson and Co., Manchester.

WILKIN, MARMADUKE, Lincoln's Inn, late of Philpot-lane, ship and insurance broker, Feb. 2, March 9: solicitor, Mr. J. Espin, 3, New Boswell-court, Carey-street.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

DAWSON, JAMES, and SCOTT, WILLIAM, Glasgow, woollendrapers, Feb. 1, 22.
HUME, ALEXANDER, Glasgow, share dealer, Jan. 30, Feb. 20.
RAY, FRANCIS, Glasgow, hat manufacturer, Feb. 1, 22.
YOUNG, SAMUEL, Glasgow, builder, Feb. 1, March 1.

DIVIDENDS.

William Ashdown, Chatham, ironmonger, first div. of 5s.; at 12, Birch-lane, City, Jan. 25, and two following Mondays—William Walker, Wortley, merchant, final div. of 6½d.; at 5, Park-row, Leeds, any Saturday—William Lawton, Hey, Staley, woollen manufacturer, final div. of 3d.; at 5, Park-row, Leeds, on and after Feb. 1—Francis Shute and Stephen Shute, Crediton, woollen manufacturers, div. of 2s. 6½d. on the joint estate, and 6s. 1d. on the separate estate of Stephen Shute; at Paul-street, Exeter, after Jan. 26.

BRITISH FUNDS.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 percent. Consols ..	91½	91½	91	90½	90½	91
Otto for Account ..	92½	91½	91½	90½	91½	92½
3 percent. Reduced ..	92½	92	91½	90½	91	91½
New 3½ percent ..	93½	93½	93	92½	92½	92½
Long Annuities ..	94	94	93	94	94	94
Bank Stock ..	205	205	205	204½	204½	204
India Stock ..	—	252	—	250	250	249
Exchequer Bills ..	6pm	6pm	7pm	5pm	5pm	6pm
India Bonds ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Belgian ..	98	Mexican ..	214
Brazilian ..	86	Peruvian ..	394
Buenos Ayres ..	43½	Portuguese 5 per cents ..	81
Columbian ..	16	Ditto converted ..	33
Danish ..	86½	Russian ..	112
Dutch 2½ per cents ..	56½	Spanish Active ..	234
Ditto 4 per cents ..	90½	Ditto Passive ..	44
French 3 per cents ..	77½	Ditto Deferred ..	174

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham & Gloucester	129	London & Croydon Trunk	214
Blackwall ..	81	London and Greenwich	94
Bristol and Exeter ..	76	Manchester and Leeds	111
Eastern Counties ..	23	Midland Counties ..	130
Eastern Union ..	—	Ditto New Shares ..	324
Edinburgh and Glasgow	77	Manchester and Birming.	74
Great North of England ..	239	Midland and Derby ..	106
Great Western ..	134	Norfolk ..	129
Ditto Half ..	76	North British ..	36
Ditto Fifth ..	29½	South Eastern and Dover	41
London & North-Western ..	196	South Western ..	64
Ditto Quarter Shares ..	224	York and Newcastle ..	94
London and Brighton ..	64	York and North Midland	384

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, Jan. 25.

The supply of wheat from Essex at this morning's market was small, but fair from Kent; and a clearance of the former was early

effected, at the prices of this day's night; but the latter hung on hand, and a considerable portion remained unsold. In foreign wheat not much doing, but holders are very firm. Barley meets a very dull sale, and is 4s. per qr. lower. Beans and white peas are each dearer. Although the arrivals of oats are very trifling, still buyers are unwilling to accede to the present high rates, and it is only to necessitous buyers that sales can be made. The demand for floating cargoes of both wheat and maize continues, and prices are rather advancing.

Wheat, Red ..	70 to 76	Malt, Ordinary ..	73 to 78
New ..	75 to 78	Pale ..	78 to 81
White ..	75 to 82	Rye ..	50 to 60
New ..	80 to 85	Peas, Hog ..	53 to 54
Flour, per sack (Town) ..	60 to 65	Maple ..	53 to 55
Barley ..	43 to 48	Boilers ..	59 to 56
Malt ..	58 to 61	Beans, Ticks ..	47 to 51

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR JAN. 23.			AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.		
Wheat ..	70s.	3d.	Wheat ..	63s.	10d.
Barley ..	50	0	Barley ..	45	0
Oats ..	29	6	Oats ..	37	4
Rye ..	50	8	Rye ..	45	7
Beans ..	49	0	Beans ..	48	3
Peas ..	51	11	Peas ..	50	0

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Jan. 25.

With home-fed beasts, the quality of which was very good, we were fairly supplied. Although the attendance of buyers was numerous, the beef trade was in a very sluggish state, at a decline in the quotations obtained on Monday last of 2d. per 8lbs., the very highest figure for the best Scots not exceeding 4s. 4d. per 8lbs. The numbers of sheep were considerably on the increase, and of excellent quality; owing to which, the change in the weather, and the heavy supplies offering in the dead markets, the mutton trade was dull, and the currencies declined 2d. per 8lbs., the best old Downs selling slowly at 5s. per 8lbs. In calves, the supply of which was limited, very little was doing, at barely stationary prices. The pork trade was dull; but we can notice no alteration in value.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef ..	3s. 2d. to 4s. 4d.	Veal ..	4s. 0d. to 5s. 0d.
Mutton ..	3 6 to 5 0	Pork ..	3 10 to 5 0

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

	Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday ..	536	2,390	150	280
Monday ..	3,004	23,300	70	300

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, Jan. 25.

Per 8lbs. by the carcass.			
Inferior Beef ..	2s. 6d. to 2s. 8d.	Inf. Mutton ..	3s. 4d. to 3s. 6d.
Middling do ..	2 10 to 3 0	Mid. ditto ..	3 8 to 4 0
Prime large ..	2 10 to 3 0	Prime ditto ..	4 2 to 4 6
Prime small ..	3 4 to 3 6	Veal ..	4 0 to 5 0
Large Pork ..	3 8 to 4 6	Small Pork ..	4 8 to 5 0

SEEDS, LONDON, Monday.—The change in the weather had some effect on the cloverseed trade to-day, the breaking up of the frost having given a slight stimulus to the demand; but as, on the other hand, supplies from abroad may be looked for somewhat earlier than was before expected, no rise took place in prices. Other sorts of seed sold much as on this day week.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday.—During last week, there was a fair demand for Irish butter, and a moderate extent of business done, at prices varying for Carlow, from 90s. to 95s.; Carrick and Clonmel, 92s. to 96s.; Waterford, 80s. to 88s.; Cork, 92s. to 94s.; Limerick, 82s. to 92s.; Sligo, 80s. to 84s. per cwt. In foreign, the dealings were limited, and prices lower. The best sold at 98s. to 102s. per cwt. No improvement in English butter. For singed bacon, the demand was good, and a respectable amount of sales effected, at 61s. to 66s. per cwt. landed, and at 60s. to 64s. on board, as in size and quality. Bale and tiece middles in short supply, and prices in proportion; the former, 60s. to 62s.; the latter, 58s. to 60s. per cwt. Hams in slow sale, at 66s. to 76s. per cwt. Lard in request. Bladders, 74s. to 80s.; kegs, 64s. to 70s. per cwt. Cheese trade is very languid. Foreign scarce, and rules high.

BREAD.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 10d. to 10½d.; of household ditto, 8½d. to 9½d. per 4lbs loaf.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, Jan. 25.—Fine samples have been in steady request, and their value has undergone no change; other descriptions move off slowly at the currency of this day week. Sussex pockets, 80s. to 88s.; Weald of Kent ditto, 85s. to 90s.; mid. and East Kent, 95s. to 130s.

WOOL, CITY, Monday.—The imports of wool into London last week were 387 bales from Spain and 215 from the Cape of Good Hope. The market is quiet. From the manufacturing districts our accounts are not encouraging. Leeds, Jan. 22.—The demand for wool this week has been steady, and prices are firm. There is considerable difficulty in obtaining supplies from the growers to meet the rates of these markets. The transactions of the past week have been generally limited to the present wants of the consumers, and not very extensive in amount. In prices there is no apparent alteration.

COTTON, LIVERPOOL, Saturday.—Cotton has declined ½d. to 1½d. per lb. from last week's quotations of American, and the week closes very heavily. Of 2,240 bags Sea Island and stained, offered by auction yesterday, only 240 of the former and 50 stained have been sold, at irregular prices, in some instances a decline of 1d. per lb. having been submitted to. Egyptian is in moderate demand, and is ½d. per lb. lower. Brazil has declined ½d. per lb., and is in very limited demand. Surat continues to be very freely offered, and has declined ½d. per lb. The sales of the week amount to 19,300, including 3,600 American on speculation, and 400 American and 200 Surat for export.

TALLOW, MONDAY, Jan. 25.—The price of fine Y. C. is steady, at our quotation of this morning; and for February and March the price is quoted 51s. 9d. In new Y. C. for the autumn delivery (say the last three months), there has been business done during the last week, at 45s. 9d. to 46s. for cash on delivery of the tallow. The demand continues very good. Town tallow 52s. to 53s., net cash.

HIDES, LEADENHALL.—Market hides, 61lb. to 72lb., 3d. to 3½d. per lb.; ditto, 72lb. to 80lb., 3½d. to 3¾d.; ditto, 80lb. to 88lb., 3¾d. to 4d.; ditto, 88lb. to 96lb., 4½d. to 5d.; ditto, 96lb. to 104lb., 5d. to 6d.; Calf-skins, each, 4s. 6d. to 6s. 6d.; Horse hides, 13s.; Lambs, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 10d.; Shearings, 1s. 6d. to 2s.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Jan. 23.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Meadow ..	45s. to 75s.	At per load ..	28s. to 32s.
Clover Hay ..	65s. to 91s.	Wheat Straw ..	00s. to 00s.

COAL EXCHANGE, Jan. 22.

Stewart's, 29s. 0d.; Hetton's, 29s. 0d.; Braddyll's Hetton's, 27s. 0d.; Lambton's, 26s. 6d.; West Hartley's, 24s. 6d. Ships arrived this week, 108.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, CITY-ROAD.

—A SERMON, on behalf of the above Institution, will be preached in UNION CHAPEL, ISLINGTON, on SUNDAY EVENING, January 31st, 1847, by the Rev. HENRY ALLON. Service to commence at Half-past Six o'clock.

The Children of the School will be present, and will sing a Hymn composed for the occasion.

This day is published, price 3s. cloth,

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Without intending to cast the smallest disparagement on the existing Newspaper Press of our city, the opinion is widely entertained that there is room for another Weekly Journal, and that there is need for it as well as room. Not to speak of the paucity of local papers, as compared with the population to be supplied, or the vast increase which every year is making to its amount—there is a large and increasingly influential section of the community who feel that they have no vehicle of communication with the public mind, specially devoted to the elucidation and enforcement of those views, in regard to public and social affairs, to which they are strongly attached, and conducted on principles of which they can conscientiously approve. To supply this lack is one main design of the projectors of this paper.

Our Creed may be briefly stated:—We are the Enemies of all Monopoly, whether in Commerce, Legislation, or Religion. Believing that all legislative restrictions on trade have proved highly prejudicial to the interests of our country, we desire to see the principles of Free-trade universally extended. The entire system of class legislation we regard as not more unjust in principle, and injurious to the commonwealth, than fatal to the real welfare of the very parties for whose special behoof it exists and is maintained;—and the conviction every day gains strength in our minds, that the cause of spiritual religion will not, cannot, extensively prosper so long as it continues gagged and fettered by State-pay, contamination, and control.

Thoroughly liberal in our general and commercial politics,—and eagerly desiring the abolition of all forms of party exclusiveness and State favouritism,—we are especially decided in our opinions respecting ecclesiastical matters. On principle we are Dissenters. Taking our views on this subject from the Word of God, we cannot, dare not allow them to remain in abeyance,—or assign to them a subordinate place either in feeling or action. Too long has the fear of being stigmatized as political, operated so as to deprive Dissenters of their legitimate influence over the community,—and exposed them, in high places, to the charge of insincerity as well as impotence. It is high time to prove it otherwise—to show that our Christianity not only permits, but necessitates, political action—and to prepare ourselves in all respects for the coming struggle. It will, accordingly, be our aim to state our principles calmly, broadly, manfully,—to enforce them by such considerations as right reason, the Word of God, and the history of State-churches, supply—and to call upon all who think alike with us in these matters, to show themselves faithful to their principles and their country at this eventful crisis.

Whilst seeking to maintain and enforce—with all becoming earnestness—the views which we hold as to the support and extension of the Christian Church, we look with no unfriendly eye on those who differ from us. We hail their increasing intelligence—we rejoice in their enlarged activity—we earnestly desire their highest prosperity;—and it will be our study impartially to notice and record the efforts made by all denominations for the advancement of the Common Cause of our Lord in the Earth. We are very decided without being Sectarian. Our Motto is—"Charity without Compromise."

Though far from approving of some of the means which have been employed for its promotion, we are warmly attached friends of the "Temperance Reformation." It healthful progress among all classes of the Community—but especially among the Working-Classes—we regard as essential to the Moral and Spiritual welfare of the country;—and it will afford us great pleasure periodically to record its successes,—to illustrate the benefits which would accrue from its wider diffusion,—and to aid, by all suitable means, in the furtherance of the unspeakably important object which it contemplates.

In the improvement of the social and political condition of the people—the diffusion of knowledge—the extension of a thoroughly sound religious and intellectual education—the enactment and enforcement of wholesome sanitary regulations—the repression of crime by the removal of its causes—the institution of societies for sickness and old age—and the recognition of the inalienable rights of the brotherhood of humanity, irrespective of the accidents of birth, colour, or country—we are deeply interested;—and shall regard it as our privilege to give our advocacy to the onward movement, and to present in our columns a periodical Record of our Social Progress. In a word, without being a denominational or religious paper, in the strict sense of the language, it will be our endeavour to transfuse the pre-eminent social and benevolent spirit of Christianity into all the departments of human action and society.

These are our principles, these our aims. To earnest-minded men of all parties we make our appeal for a candid hearing, and, so far as they can conscientiously give it, their cordial support.

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1. That this Conference is deeply impressed with the importance of popular Education, and believes that it should be elevated in character, and as widely diffused as possible.

2. That this Conference, while it values highly the secular instruction and the intellectual advancement of the people, feels deeply convinced that, without a careful training in the generous Spirit, the pure Morality, and the ennobling Doctrines of the Bible, the youth of our land cannot be truly prepared for the duties and responsibilities of life; and that any system of Education which should withhold from the teacher of the Day-school full liberty to inculcate Scriptural truth as his conscience dictates, will deprive our youth of their greatest safeguard, and promote, to a fearful extent, Religious Indifference and Infidelity.

3. That this Conference believes that it is not within the province of the State to form the mind of the nation, or to interfere, in any way, with the education of the people; and would deprecate any system of Government Education, as dangerous to national liberty; and any Distribution of Government Grants, said to be in aid of Voluntary efforts, as unjust to those who disapprove of the schools thus aided, and as a great hindrance to the full development of Educational Benevolence.

After a correspondence with Mr. Edward Baines, of Leeds, who most generously placed his Pamphlet the disposal of the Conference, Messrs. James Carter, Angus Jennings, Charles Reed, and John Curwen were appointed a Committee to superintend the circulation of Mr. Baines' "Letters" on Education, at the price of One Shilling.

Dr. Reed, Dr. Price, Dr. Hewlett, the Rev. Messrs. H. Hinton, Waddington, T. W. Davids, Katterns, and Overbury, with Messrs. Conder, Miall, Hare, and E. Clarke, were appointed a Committee "to correspond with the friends of Voluntary Education, and to convene another Conference, whenever they see a just occasion." The Rev. T. W. Davids, of Colchester, was appointed Corresponding Secretary of this Committee.

JOHN CURWEN,

Secretary to the Conference.

At a SOIREE of the Members and Friends of

the BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION, held in the Corn Exchange, Manchester, on the 21st January, 1847; on the motion of Samuel Giles, Esq., seconded by Philip Thomson, Esq.,

JAMES WATTS, Esq., was called to the Chair.

Moved by Rev. William Patterson; seconded by George Hadfield, Esq., and unanimously resolved:—

1. That this meeting expresses its complete concurrence in the fundamental principle of the British Anti-State-Church Association, viz.:—"That in matters of religion man is responsible to God alone; that all legislation by secular governments in affairs of religion is an encroachment upon the rights of man, and an invasion of the prerogatives of God; and that the application by law of the resources of the State to the maintenance of any form or forms of religious worship and instruction is contrary to reason, hostile to human liberty, and decidedly opposed to the Word of God."

Moved by Rev. D. R. Stephen; seconded by Rev. E. Hooper; responded to by Dr. Thomas Price:—

2. That this meeting, fully approving of the establishment of the British Anti-state-church Association, and its general organization, would especially gratefully acknowledge the wisdom, zeal, Christian forbearance, and courtesy which have characterized the efforts of the Executive Committee, and pledges itself to aid the members of that committee in carrying out its noble design in this neighbourhood.

Moved by Rev. R. Morris; seconded by Edward Miall, Esq.; supported by John Brooks, Esq.:—

3. That this meeting is deeply impressed with the importance of special efforts to extend the influence of the British Anti-state-church Association at the present time, when, in Great Britain and Ireland, and its colonies, there are furnished such overwhelming proof of the tendency of modern legislation to strengthen and increase the application of the State-church principle; and this meeting gathers fresh motives for supporting this resolution, from the deeply-interesting, and, in some cases, appalling aspect this great question is assuming both on the Continent of Europe, in various important spheres of missionary operation, and in the general appearance of the world.

Moved by the Rev. Dr. Nolan; seconded by Mr. T. Falvey:—

4. That, in carrying out these objects, this meeting disclaims all hostility to persons or peculiar churches as such, and would desire to prosecute their designs in the spirit of Christian forbearance and affection, "speaking the truth in love," while they respectfully and urgently claim from all the friends of the voluntary principle their support and hearty co-operation, their solicitude for others a calm and prayerful consideration of the fundamental principle of the Anti-state-church Association.

Moved by Archibald Prentice, Esq.; and seconded by William Burd, jun., Esq.:—

5. That the thanks of this meeting be heartily given to Dr. Thos. Price and Edward Miall, Esq., the deputation from the Executive Committee, for the eminently effective service they have rendered to us on this occasion.

JAMES WATTS, Chairman.

Moved by Edward Miall, Esq.; seconded by Dr. Thomas Price:—

6. That the thanks of this meeting be respectfully tendered to James Watts, Esq., for the able manner in which he has fulfilled the duties of Chairman on this occasion.

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In an article on the law of copyright, in *Douglas Jerrold's Weekly Newspaper*, the following allusion is made to the evidence produced in the recent trial in the Jury Court of Scotland, in which the proprietors of the "Encyclopedia Britannica" were called upon to vindicate their right to the Dissertation of the late Dugald Stewart:—

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For the contribution of the Dissertation in dispute, Dugald Stewart received from the firm of Constable and Co. £1,600, and for the accompanying Dissertations by Sir James Mackintosh and Sir John Leslie, the present proprietors of the 'Encyclopedia' paid £1,030. The cost of Professor Playfair's Dissertation is not precisely stated, but if paid for at the same rate as Sir John Leslie's, it could not fall short of £500. For editing the volume the sum of £320 was paid, bringing up the total expenditure for the literary labour of this volume alone to £3,450."

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31	0 9½	2 2 6	2 5½	6 7 6	4 1	10 12 6	31
32	0 10	2 3 5	2 6	6 10 3	4 2½	10 17 1	32
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35	0 10½	2 6 10	2 8½	7 0 6	4 6	11 14 2	35
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By order of the Board,
January 15, 1847. THOMAS PRICE, Secretary.

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FAMINE IN IRELAND.

THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF IRELAND having appointed the Rev. Dr. URWICK, of Dublin; the Rev. N. SHEPPARD, of Sligo; the Rev. Dr. BEWGLASS, of Dublin; the Rev. J. D. SMITH, late of Newry; the Rev. A. KING, late of Cork; and the Rev. H. MARTIN, of Clonmel, a deputation to England to appeal for funds, that their agents, who are scattered over various parts of Ireland, may be able, in some measure, to relieve the unparalleled distress in the midst of which they are labouring, most earnestly entreat the attention of benevolent persons, of all classes and denominations, to the appalling facts the deputation may disclose, and the Christian object they have in view. The deputation are now in London; and it is earnestly implored that all who can aid them in their mission will communicate with them immediately, at the Office of the *Patriot*, 5, Bolt-court, and of the *Nonconformist*, 3, Whitefriars, Fleet-street.

IRISH EVANGELICAL SOCIETY. EXTREME DISTRESS.

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The Committee intends forthwith to send a Deputation to superintend on the spot the application of the Churches' bounty—to express English and Protestant sympathy with the sufferings of Ireland—to preach the Gospel, as well as administer temporal succour. This proceeding will bring no charge on either the Relief Funds or on those of the Society.

The Ministers of our Body labouring in Ireland will be the medium of distribution. The poor of their Churches will be the first objects of sympathy and care; their known and stated hearers will follow next; other sufferers will be relieved wherever practicable. This is the time to make an impression on Ireland favourable to the Gospel, by exhibiting powerfully its genuine spirit and fruits. Their present misery may work future good, both temporal and spiritual.

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THOMAS JAMES, Secretary.

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NEW CHAPEL, MYDDLETON-ROAD, DALSTON.—The First Stone of the above building will be laid (D.V.) on TUESDAY, the 2nd of February, by T. R. MILLS, Esq. An Introductory Service will be held in Phillips-street Chapel, and an Address given by the Rev. ALGERNON WELLS. Service will commence at Eleven o'clock precisely.

Printed by JOHN HASLER, of No. 3, York-place, Albion-road, Stoke Newington, in the county of Middlesex, at No. 4, Crane-court, Fleet-street, in the parish of St. Dunstan in the West, in the city of London; and published by EDWARD MIAL, of No. 1, Belgrave-place, Tufnell-park, Holloway, in the county of Middlesex, at the office, No. 3, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, in the parish of St. Dunstan in the West, in the city of London.—WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1847.